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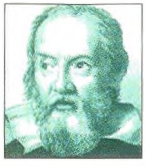

- I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forgo their use.

  - **Galileo Galilei**

- A true friend is someone who thinks that you are a good egg even though he knows that you are slightly cracked.

  - Bernard Meltzer

- In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on.

  - Robert Frost

- I find that the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have.

  - Thomas Jefferson

- To accomplish great things we must not only act but also dream, not only plan but also believe.

  - **Anatole France**

- Each day can be one of triumph if you keep up your interest.

  - George Matthew Adams

- People with goals succeed because they know where they're going.

  - Earl Nightingale

- You can complain because roses have thorns, or you can rejoice because thorns have roses.

  - Anonymous

- Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage.

  - **Anais Nin**

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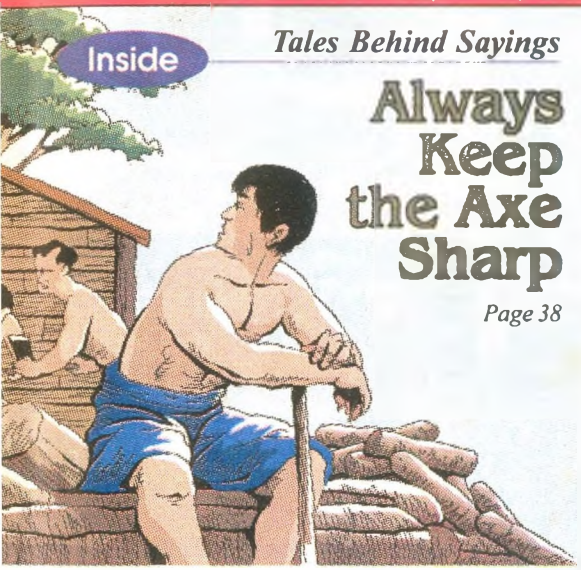

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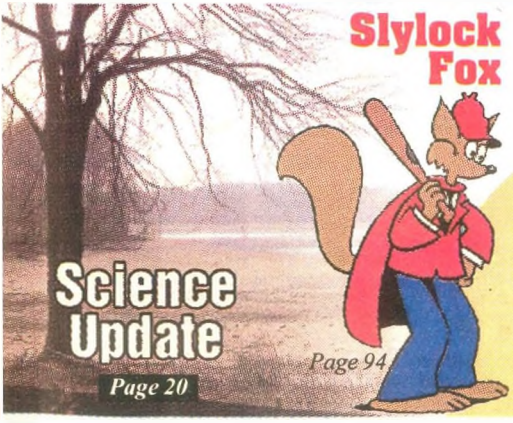

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Thought for the Month

Do not wait to strike till the iron is hot; but make it hot by striking.

- William B. Sprague

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A Country Girl in the City

Polly Milton (14) and Fanny Shaw (15) are unlikely friends. The daughter of a wealthy city businessman, Fanny is a fashionable, snobbish girl. Polly is a quiet, home-loving country girl from a poor family.

When Polly visits Fanny for the first time, she is overwhelmed by the Shaws' urbanised, opulent lifestyles. Polly is no prig, but a healthy, well-brought up country girl whose ways are very different from those of the Shaws. The Shaw family consists of the father, who is too busy making money to devote time to his family; the mother, a nervous, fussy invalid who has no time for her children; the grandmother, who leads a lonely life in her room, neglected by the busy family; Fanny herself, whose interests lie in fashionable parties and clothes; Tom, Fanny's rough-and-ready brother, who teases Polly incessantly; and Maud, Fanny's fractious younger sister, a socialite in the making.

Polly finds herself a fish out of water in the strange new environment. Fanny's friends reject her because of her different manners and simple clothes. But Polly wonders why, despite being so wealthy, the Shaws are not a happier family. Coming from a loving home herself, she quickly perceives the lack of love in the wealthy household, and sets out to 'create a little sunshine'.

Does Polly, ridiculed as an 'old-fashioned girl', succeed in teaching the Shaws that family love and support is more valuable than money? To find out, read Louisa Alcott's 1869 classic, *An Old-fashioned Girl*, which continues to charm readers today.

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Did You Know?

Sometimes birds show anger towards humans by taking out their feelings on other birds nearby, because they are too afraid to attack humans.

Stories for Little Angels

- Anonymous

THE BUILDER

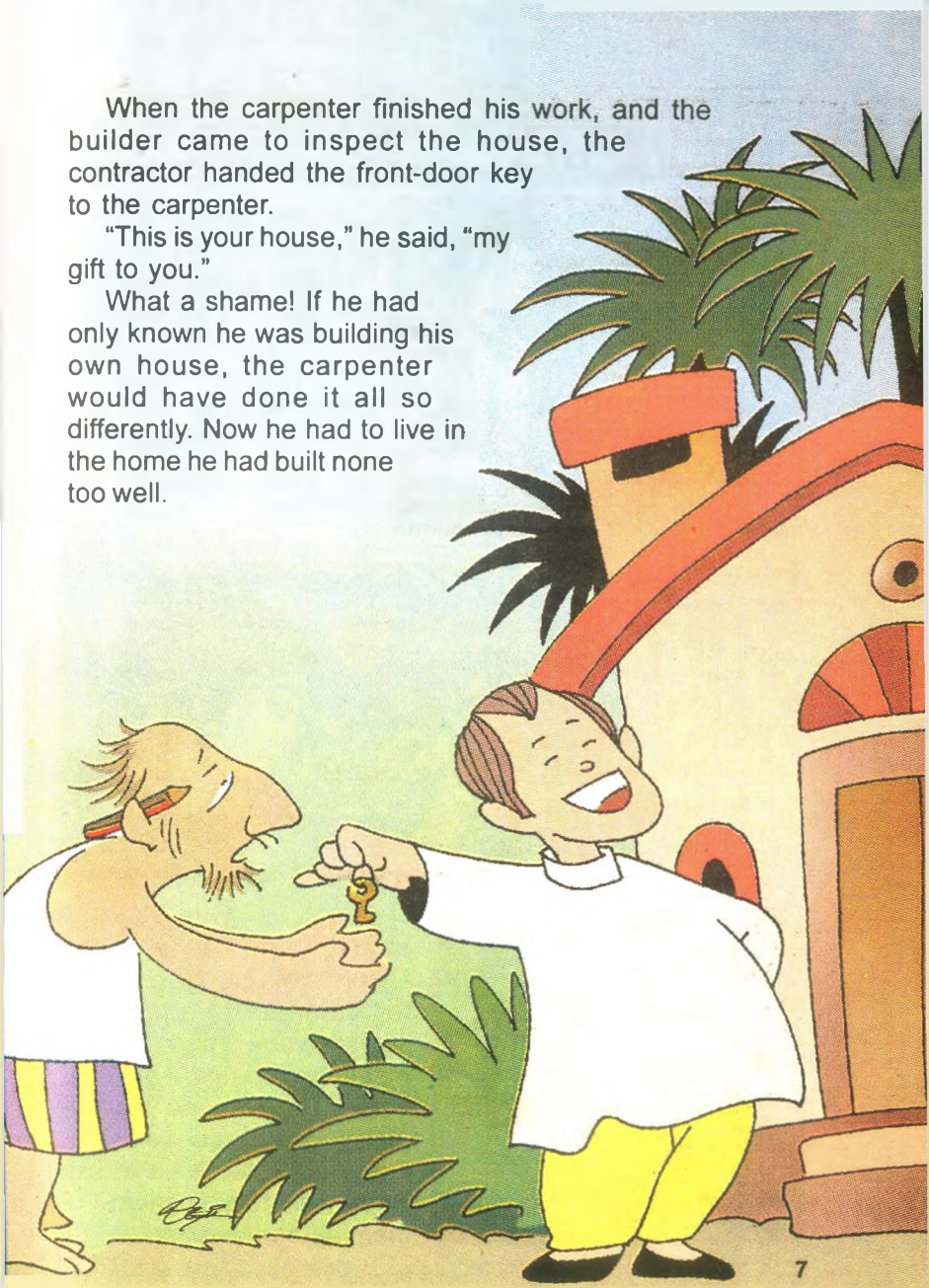
An elderly carpenter was ready to retire. He told his employer-contractor of his plans to leave the house-building business and live a more leisurely life with his wife enjoying his extended family. He would miss the paycheck, but he needed to retire. They could get by.

The contractor was sorry to see his good worker go and asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favour. The carpenter said yes, but in time it was easy to see that his heart was not in his work. He resorted to shoddy workmanship and used inferior materials. It was an unfortunate way to end his career.

When the carpenter finished his work, and the builder came to inspect the house, the contractor handed the front-door key to the carpenter.

"This is your house," he said, "my gift to you."

What a shame! If he had only known he was building his own house, the carpenter would have done it all so differently. Now he had to live in the home he had built none too well.



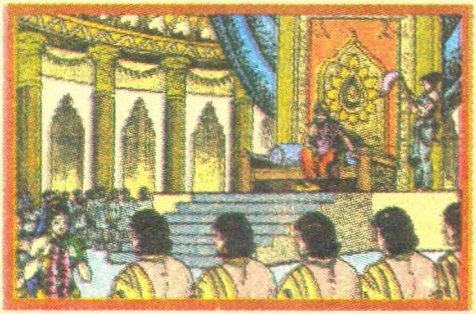
ORDEALS OF A KING - I

One day Nala, the young king of Nishada, caught a beautiful golden swan in his garden. The swan pleaded, "Please don't harm me, O King. Let me go, and I shall sing your glory before Damayanti, the lovely princess of Vidarbha."

Nala let the swan go. The swan flew to Vidarbha. There, it met Damayanti and praised Nala in such glowing terms that the princess lost her heart to him.

Soon, Damayanti's *swayamvara* was arranged. Eager to win her, Nala set out for Vidarbha to attend the *swayamvara*. On the way he met Indra, Varuna, Agni, and Yama. The gods too were on their way to the *swayamvara*. They requested Nala to ask Damayanti to choose one of them as her husband.

Bound by his promise to the gods, Nala duly met Damayanti and conveyed their message to her. But Damayanti told him that she had already decided to wed none else but Nala himself. Nala faithfully reported this to the gods.



The gods were surprised that Damayanti should prefer a mortal to a god. They decided to test her devotion. At the *swayamvara*, they all assumed the appearance of Nala and stood beside him. Poor Damayanti was at a loss to know who the real Nala was.

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But Damayanti did not give up. With deep devotion, she prayed to the gods to reveal themselves, so that she could marry the man who had won her heart. Such was the force of her prayer that the gods relented, and showed themselves in their divine forms. Damayanti happily garlanded Nala.

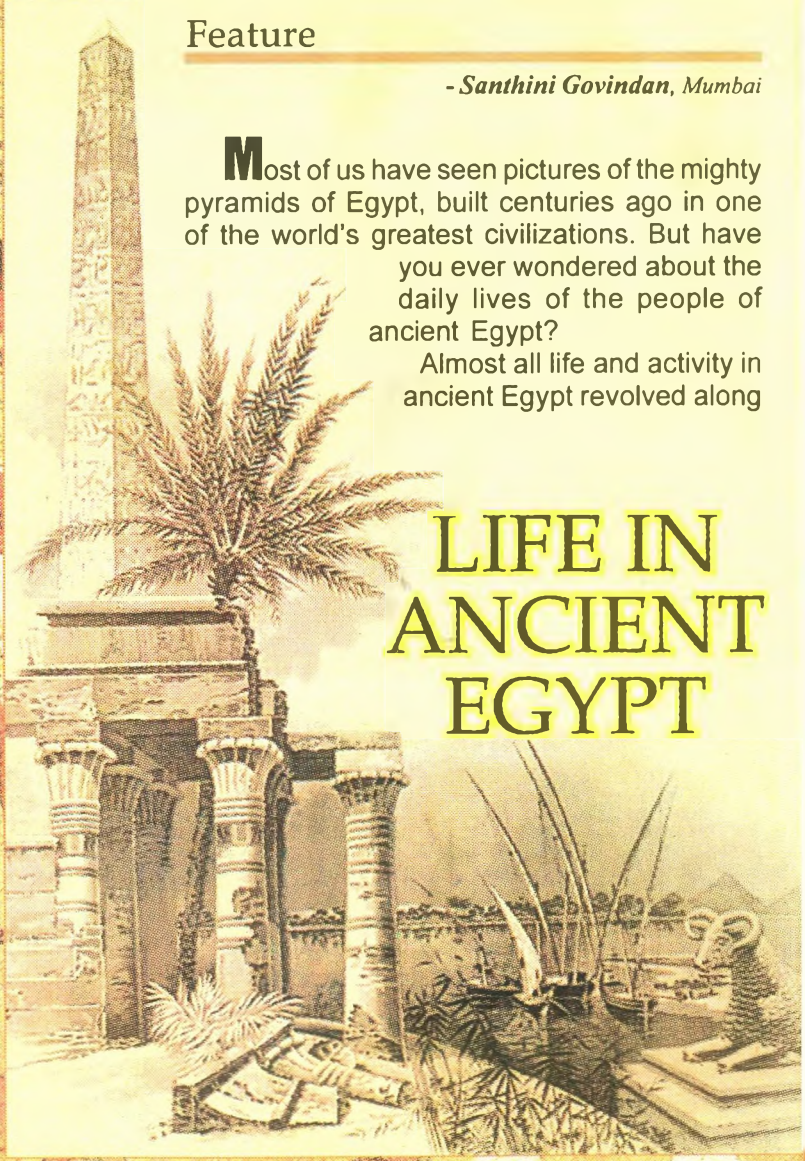
Feature

- ***Santhini Govindan***, *Mumbai*

LIFE IN ANCIENT EGYPT

Most of us have seen pictures of the mighty pyramids of Egypt, built centuries ago in one of the world's greatest civilizations. But have you ever wondered about the daily lives of the people of ancient Egypt?

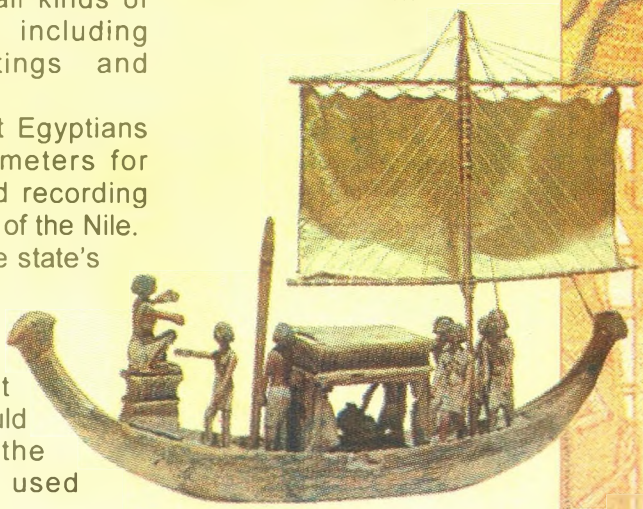
Almost all life and activity in ancient Egypt revolved along



the river Nile. The Greek historian Herodotus referred to Egypt as 'the gift of the Nile'. In a country that received hardly any rainfall, the Nile nourished Egypt, and became its main provider of food and water. The Nile gave the people fish and waterfowl to eat, mud for bricks, and paper from the papyrus reeds that grew on its banks. It was also a highway on which people could travel, enjoy sports, and transport goods, and was even a source of inspiration and creativity for all kinds of Egyptian art, including music, paintings and etchings.

The ancient Egyptians invented Nilometers for measuring and recording the flood levels of the Nile. From these, the state's officials could calculate the likely harvest and the amount of tax they could impose on the people! They used skiffs, lightweight boats made of papyrus, to travel short distances, for fishing, and transporting goods on the Nile.

Agriculture was the main profession of the Egyptians. Neat parcels of farmland bordered the Nile, and it was on these that nearly all Egyptian farmers worked. The most important crops were wheat, barley and flax, which Egyptians grew for linen and linseed oil. All work in the fields and activities like threshing was a communal effort. It was hard work, but



considerate landowners often provided musicians to play flutes while the peasants worked!

Egyptian farmers mainly used hinnies on their farms. A hinny is the offspring of a male horse and a female donkey. This strong and hard working creature was the poor man's horse in ancient Egypt!

Can you believe that cats had an important role in agriculture in ancient Egypt? They had to keep the royal granaries, where mountains of grain were stored, free from rats. This was a very important job, so cats were revered and treated as demi-gods. All cats were considered property of the ruler or Pharaoh, and so killing a cat even by accident was punishable by death! If a house in ancient Egypt caught fire, the cats were to be rescued first, then the humans! When a cat died, the members of its household mourned and shaved off their eyebrows. The ancient Egyptians even had a Cat goddess called Bastet who had a cat's head and a woman's body.

There were many other occupations in ancient Egypt apart from farming. The upper classes included government officials, nobles, and priests. Most of these occupations were hereditary, or passed on from father to son. Government officials ran the Pharaoh's day to day administration. They collected taxes from the farmers. Priests ran

the temples. They did not live apart from the community, and could marry and hold other secular posts as well as religious ones.

Priests served for one month three times a year. While he was on duty, the priest had to be absolutely pure. He bathed several times a day, shaved off all body hair, and ate only certain foods. When they were not working, priests had other work to do like running the god's estates, organizing funerals, and supervising artists' work. Some priests were specialists in astronomy, astrology or the interpretation of dreams! Ancient Egyptians wrote down everything – from magic spells and curses to medical procedures and lists of food supplies given to the pyramid builders!

Scribes or writers in ancient Egypt had to learn more than 700 hieroglyphic signs, some representing ideas and objects, others representing sounds. They

Hieroglyphic signs of Tutankhamun's personal name.

wrote in red and black on Papyrus paper, which was made from papyrus reed stalks that grew on the banks of the Nile. Students in ancient Egypt copied their texts on pieces of stone or broken pottery or on wooden boards covered in wax that could be smoothed over and reused.

Egyptian men and women were very particular about their appearance. Clothes, hair, jewelry and make-up were all very important to them. Nearly all

their clothes were made from linen in different textures, ranging from the thick and coarse, to the fine and smooth. White was the colour most commonly used. The Egyptians did not use wool because it was considered impure.

Men in Egypt wore loincloths when they were working, and kilts or skirts of varying lengths on other occasions. Women wore straight dresses held up by two straps. Sometimes, these were decorated with beads or were pleated. Children often wore no clothes at all in the hot weather!

Ancient Egyptian sandal.

Most Egyptians went barefoot, but wore sandals on special occasions or when their feet were likely to get hurt. Sandals were made of leather or of rush woven together. Kings wore elaborately decorated sandals. It is interesting that some kings had sandal bearers who carried their footwear around!

Hairstyles in ancient Egypt depended on the age, sex, and the social status of the wearer. Young children wore their hair short. Teenaged boys had shaved heads except for a

braided lock on one side. Wigs were very popular in Egypt, and were worn by both men and women, who shaved their heads bald and replaced their natural hair with wigs! Shaving the hair was popular because it was more comfortable in the hot Egyptian summer, and also because it prevented infestations of head lice.

Wigs came in many different styles and were expensive. The rich had several elaborate wigs, but poor people had to use hair pieces or extensions that they stuffed into their own hair. The ancient Egyptians looked after their wigs very well. They were scented and stored in special boxes, and when people died, their wigs were also buried with them, as the Egyptians believed that wigs would be needed in the afterlife!

Egyptian men and women from every walk of life were extremely fond of jewelry. For those who could afford it, there were pieces in gold and silver, inlaid with precious stones like turquoise, and lapis lazuli. Poor people made jewelry made from copper, pebbles and stone. Rings and amulets were worn to ward off the evil eye.

Ancient Egyptian make-up.

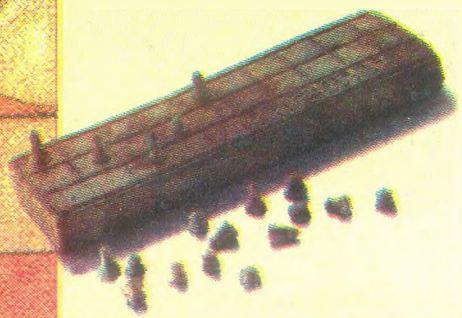
Men, women and even children of all classes and ages wore make-up in ancient Egypt. Mirrors of polished silver or copper helped them to see their images when they were dressing up. A type of clay

called red ochre was used to colour the lips and the cheeks. In the same way that we use nail polish to paint our nails, Egyptians used henna to dye their fingernails red and yellow!

Egyptians were also very particular about keeping themselves clean. They bathed regularly and rubbed their bodies with perfumes made from scented woods and flowers. It's strange but true that in ancient Egypt, women wore false beards made of plaited rope. These were held in place by a string that looped around the ears. The beards worn by the rulers, including Queen Hatsheput were indicative of their high status as royalty.

Both men and women in Egypt never went out without making up their eyes. Eye make-up kept away flies, and protected the eyes from the sun's glare. The Egyptians also believed that painted eyes had magical powers and protected the wearer from the evil eye! At parties, women wore a cone of scented fat on their heads that slowly melted, making their heads smell nice!

These energetic people loved board games too, and the most popular one was a game called Senet that everyone in Egypt played. In their leisure time, people could also read papyrus books, listen to professional storytellers or musicians or watch dancers and acrobats perform. The Egyptians loved music and they played instruments like the harp, the lute, and the lyre. They enjoyed parties and lavish celebrations and festivals were common.



The Egyptians also kept pets. Dogs were loved by all, and

a family dog unlike a cat, was given a name as if it were a human member. Dogs were so valued that often they are found buried with their master's coffin! Ducks, turtles, gazelles and monkeys were also kept as pets.

When Egyptians wanted the gods to hear their pleas, they placed a small stone slab decorated with ears against the temple walls. This was a reminder to the gods to listen attentively to them! Every Egyptian from peasant to king consulted oracles. When a question was asked requiring the answer 'yes' or 'no', the temple priest took the question to the god's statue in the sanctuary and placed it before the god, who would reply!

●

QUARREL
MY GOD! THERE WILL BE A QUARREL NOW.
WHY?
FIRST GIVE ME A CUP OF TEA.
HERE, NOW TELL ME WHO IS GOING TO QUARREL?
WAIT. I'LL TELL YOU.
JINGLE BELL CREATIONS
AFTER HE DRANK THE TEA-
YOU ARE GOING TO QUARREL. I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY.

-P. G.

Dog Genome Sequence

Geneticists have published the full genetic code of a 12-year-old boxer. There are more than 400 dog breeds distinguished from each other by millions of small differences that are clustered in blocks within the animal's genetic code. These genetic differences are useful tools in understanding how complex traits in dogs are formed. So the present discovery is a right step in arriving at the secrets of breed differences.

Packaged Foods to Have New Labels

Packaged foods will show new labels from this year giving the amount of transfat and eight different allergens they may contain. Transfat is an unsaturated fatty acid that forms when manufacturers add hydrogen to vegetable oils and is present in most processed foods. It behaves like saturated fats and raises bad cholesterol, which increases the risk of heart disease.

Malaria Parasites May Develop Resistance

Some malaria parasites are showing signs of potential resistance to artemisinin derivatives. Malaria treatments containing artemisinins typically cure 90 percent of patients within days even where parasites are resistant to other drugs.

Did You Know?

In ancient Greece, children of wealthy families were dipped in olive oil at birth to keep them hairless throughout their lives.

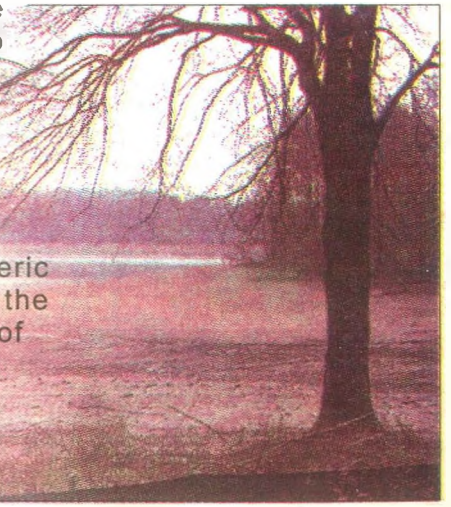
The Melting of Permafrost

Permafrost is the area of land far up in the North, in the arctic or near it, which lies permanently frozen. It is now reported that global warming could melt almost all of the top layer of arctic permafrost by the end of the century. Scientists say the melting would release vast stocks of carbon into the atmosphere, threatening ocean currents and wrecking roads and buildings across Canada, Alaska and Russia.

Permafrost makes up at least a quarter of the land surface in the northern hemisphere and the upper layer is believed to hold at least 30 percent of the carbon stored in soil. Prof. David Lawrence, climate scientist with the US Center for Atmospheric Research, says that the large-scale release of carbon could accelerate global warming, and with the present conditions, it is difficult to see how we can halt it, though we may be able to slow it down.

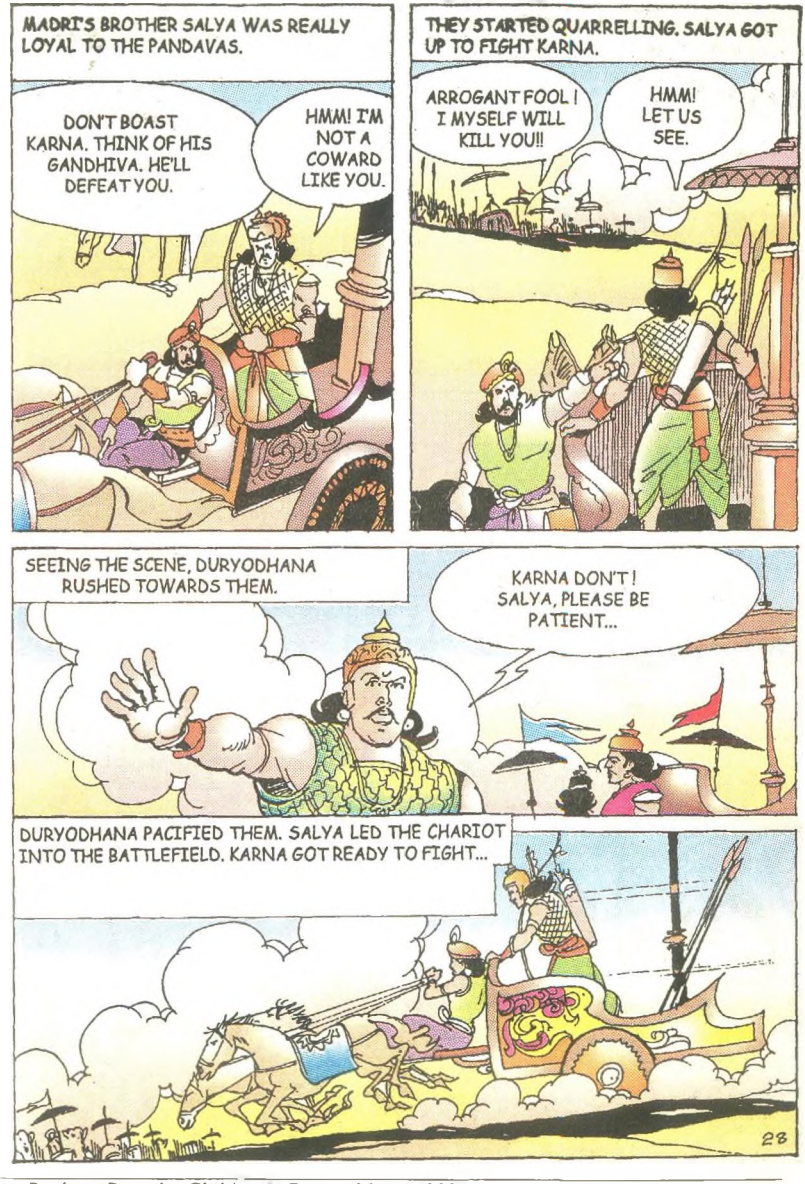
Climatic Warming and Storms Break Records in 2005

According to the UN's world report, 2005 was the world's second warmest year, with record-breaking rise of temperature, droughts, storms and floods worldwide. Severe long-term droughts affected parts of Africa, and Europe received less than half of its normal rainfall. In India unprecedented heavy rains and widespread floods killed thousands of people and affected far more.

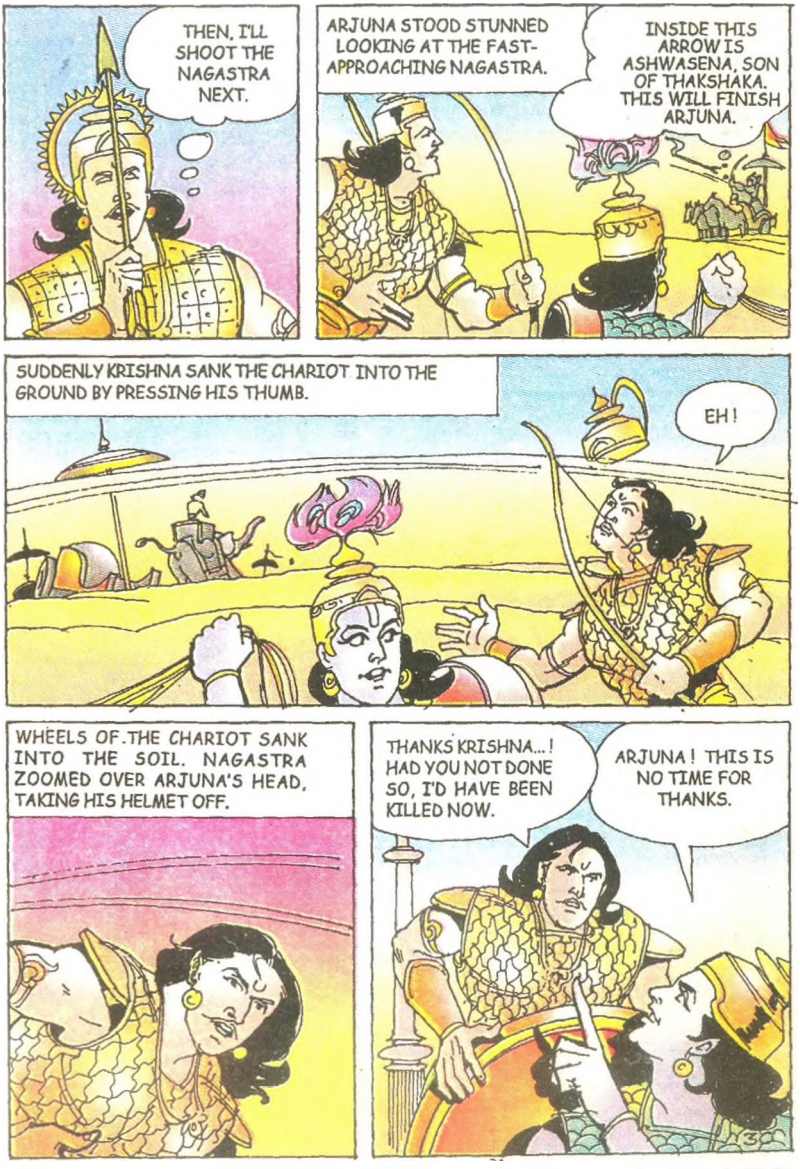


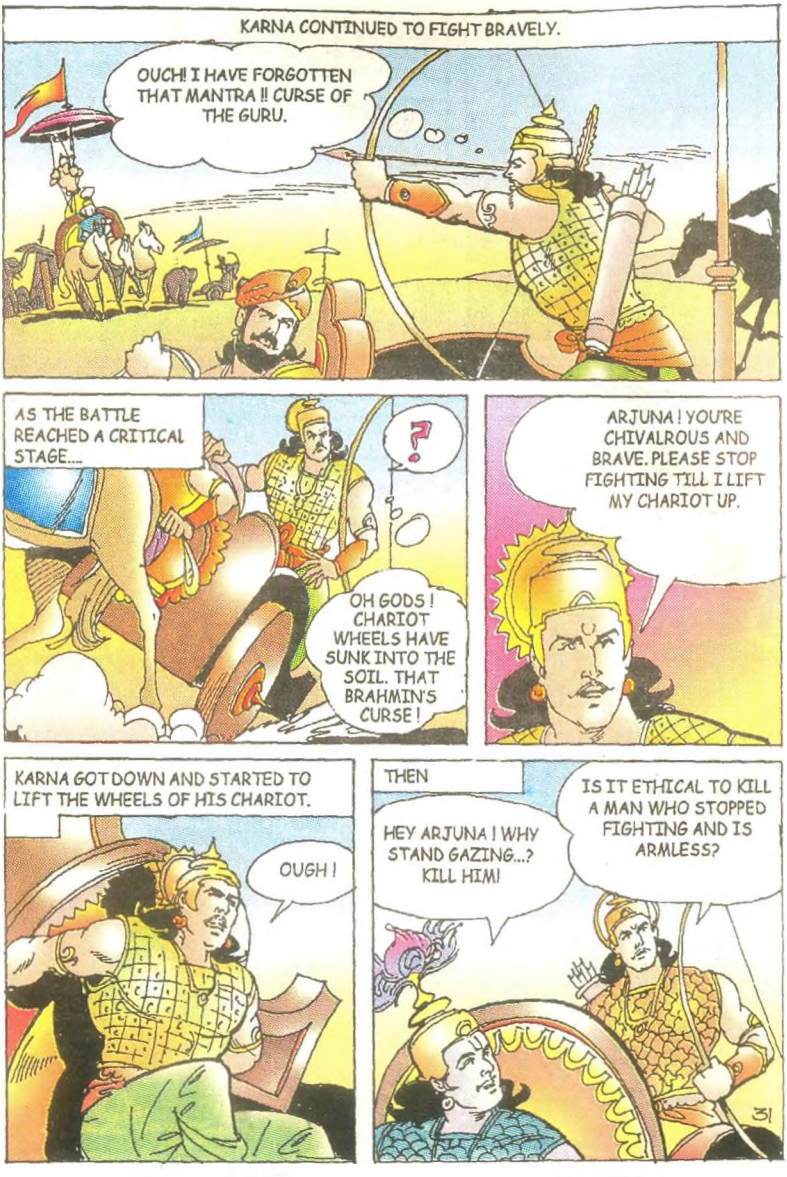
KARNA

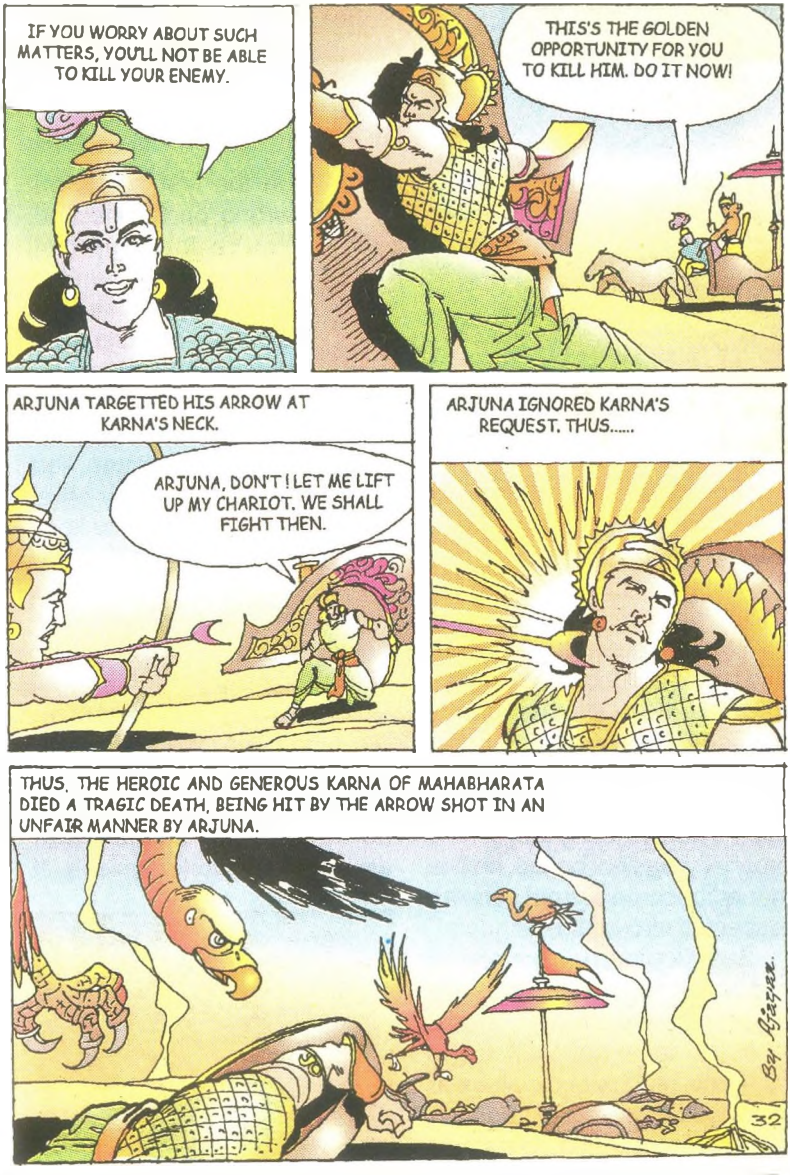
KARNA TOOK UP VYJAYANTI IN HIS HAND.
BEING HIT BY THAT POWERFUL WEAPON, KHADOIT KACHA FELL DOWN DEAD.
WHEN DRONACHARYA WAS KILLED, KARNA ASSUMED COMMAND OF THE KAURAVA ARMY.
KARNA ! BEWARE ! KRISHNA IS ARJUNA'S CHARIOTEER NOW.
WHEN YOU FIGHT ARJUNA, SALYA WILL DRIVE YOUR CHARIOT.
HURRY UP ! TODAY ITSELF I'LL KILL ARJUNA.
SALYA, KING OF MADRESA, WAS ASSIGNED AS KARNA'S CHARIOTEER.
27


MADRI'S BROTHER SALYA WAS REALLY LOYAL TO THE PANDAVAS.
DON'T BOAST KARNA. THINK OF HIS GANDHIVA. HE'LL DEFEAT YOU.
HMM! I'M NOT A COWARD LIKE YOU.
THEY STARTED QUARRELLING. SALYA GOT UP TO FIGHT KARNA.
ARROGANT FOOL! I MYSELF WILL KILL YOU!!
HMM! LET US SEE.
SEEING THE SCENE, DURYODHANA RUSHED TOWARDS THEM.
KARNA DON'T! SALYA, PLEASE BE PATIENT...
DURYODHANA PACIFIED THEM. SALYA LED THE CHARIOT INTO THE BATTLEFIELD. KARNA GOT READY TO FIGHT...
28

SOON KARNA AND ARJUNA CONFRONTED EACH OTHER.
ARJUNA.....! MY DESTINY IS TO KILL YOU.....!!
OH I SEE ! IF SO, LET ME SEE YOU BLOCK MY ARROWS..
ARJUNA SHOT SEVERAL ARROWS.
BUT KARNA INTERCEPTED ALL OF THEM.
NEXT, KARNA SHOT THE BHARGAVA ARROW. BUT...
HMM! YOUR BHARGAVA IS NOTHING BEFORE MY INDRA.
HEY!?
29


THEN, I'LL SHOOT THE NAGASTRA NEXT.
ARJUNA STOOD STUNNED LOOKING AT THE FAST-APPROACHING NAGASTRA.
INSIDE THIS ARROW IS ASHWASENA, SON OF THAKSHAKA. THIS WILL FINISH ARJUNA.
SUDDENLY KRISHNA SANK THE CHARIOT INTO THE GROUND BY PRESSING HIS THUMB.
EH!
WHEELS OF THE CHARIOT SANK INTO THE SOIL. NAGASTRA ZOOMED OVER ARJUNA'S HEAD, TAKING HIS HELMET OFF.
THANKS KRISHNA...! HAD YOU NOT DONE SO, I'D HAVE BEEN KILLED NOW.
ARJUNA! THIS IS NO TIME FOR THANKS.


KARNA CONTINUED TO FIGHT BRAVELY.
OUCH! I HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT MANTRA !! CURSE OF THE GURU.
AS THE BATTLE REACHED A CRITICAL STAGE...
?
OH GODS ! CHARIOT WHEELS HAVE SUNK INTO THE SOIL. THAT BRAHMIN'S CURSE !
ARJUNA ! YOU'RE CHIVALROUS AND BRAVE. PLEASE STOP FIGHTING TILL I LIFT MY CHARIOT UP.
KARNA GOT DOWN AND STARTED TO LIFT THE WHEELS OF HIS CHARIOT.
OUGH !
THEN
HEY ARJUNA ! WHY STAND GAZING...? KILL HIM!
IS IT ETHICAL TO KILL A MAN WHO STOPPED FIGHTING AND IS ARMLESS?
31


IF YOU WORRY ABOUT SUCH MATTERS, YOU'LL NOT BE ABLE TO KILL YOUR ENEMY.
THIS'S THE GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO KILL HIM. DO IT NOW!
ARJUNA TARGETTED HIS ARROW AT KARNA'S NECK.
ARJUNA, DON'T! LET ME LIFT UP MY CHARIOT. WE SHALL FIGHT THEN.
ARJUNA IGNORED KARNA'S REQUEST. THUS.....
THUS, THE HEROIC AND GENEROUS KARNA OF MAHABHARATA DIED A TRAGIC DEATH, BEING HIT BY THE ARROW SHOT IN AN UNFAIR MANNER BY ARJUNA.
By Gayan.
32

The Mango Miracle

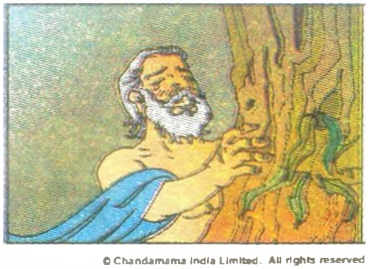
The guru looked stern as he faced the young man standing before him.

"Sasank, I had accepted you as my pupil at the instance of your father," he said. "Viswanath and I were childhood friends; we had studied at the same *gurukula*. He was a very bright and diligent student; a glorious future had been predicted for him even in those early days. The prophecy was not belied; he has indeed become a great scholar, respected all over the kingdom!"

Sasank stirred uncomfortably and looked away, feeling the keen unspoken reproach in the words.

In the same calm voice, the guru went on: "I expected his son to have inherited his intelligence and love for learning. I was right on the first count, but wrong on the second. You're intelligent all right, but you've absolutely no interest in learning the scriptures. You're content to idle away your time in card-playing and other frivolous pastimes. This has a bad effect on my other pupils. So, I don't want to keep you here any longer. You may go back home. A scholar's life is not for you; perhaps, you could find some other, a more suitable career."

Sasank took the news of his dismissal with relief. He had known long ago that he was not cut out to be a scholar. He had no aptitude for studies, and disliked hard work intensely. It



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was only at his father's compulsion that he had joined the *gurukula* run by the famous teacher. His greatest aim in life was to earn enough money to lead a life of luxury without having to work for it. Now he felt quite light-hearted – he was free at last!

Gathering up his belongings into a bundle, Sasank set off on the long journey homeward.

As night fell, it gradually became colder. Soon, he could hardly see his way ahead; moreover, he was shivering with cold. He looked around, straining his eyes to find some place where he could take shelter for the night. Soon, his eyes fell on a hillock amidst a clump of trees. He could dimly make out a little cave in the hillock. Thankfully, he crept into the cave and lay down on the floor, covering himself as best as he could with his upper cloth. As he was tired, he soon dozed off.

The sun was just rising when he woke up. Yawning, he stretched his cramped limbs and got up. As he shuffled towards the cave entrance, his eyes fell on a strange spectacle that made him stop in his tracks.

An emaciated old man, who looked like a poor villager, was standing under the mango tree beside the cave, peering up into its foliage. Sasank wondered what he wanted; it was not the season for mangoes. As he stared in amazement, the old man raised his arms skywards and muttered some incantation.

Lo and behold! The green foliage was suddenly dotted with yellow, as golden mangoes

sprouted on the tree. The next moment, a shower of ripe fruit descended on the ground!

Sasank watched awestruck as the old man calmly gathered up the scattered mangoes in a bag. Recovering his wits, he realised that he was witnessing a miracle. He had to act at once to capitalise on his find!

He darted out of the cave and threw himself at the old man's feet, crying, "Help me, O great soul!"

The startled old man leapt backwards and demanded, "Who are you?"

"I'm Sasank, a seeker of knowledge. You're evidently a great saint to have performed such a miracle! Please, sir, share your secret with me! Tell me how you managed to get mangoes instantly from a barren tree."

"Young man, I'm no saint, but only a poor, illiterate villager," answered the old man. "Moved by my poverty and misery, a great sage taught me a mantra. He told me that by chanting it once a day under a mango tree – any mango tree – I could get a hundred mangoes from the tree, irrespective of the season. I now use it every day to feed myself and my family, and distribute the remaining mangoes to the poor and needy people of my village."

By skilful questioning, Sasank found that the old man, whose name was Ramdas, had been authorised by the sage to teach the magic mantra to just one person in his lifetime. He had

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not exercised that choice so far, as he was yet to find a person worthy of the mantra.

Elated, Sasank pleaded, "Then, let me be that person, Sire! Please accept me as your disciple and teach me the mantra."

"I'm not sure whether you're worthy of it," replied Ramdas candidly. "You see, one who would learn the mantra has to abide by two rules. First, he must never sell the fruit or misuse the hymn to make profit. Secondly, he must never utter a lie."

"Don't you trust me? Do I look like a liar or crook?" asked Sasank, putting on his most plaintive expression of injured innocence. He coaxed and cajoled until the old man said, "All right, all right, young man! I shall teach you the mantra."

"Thank you so much!" cried Sasank effusively. He listened attentively as Ramdas chanted the mantra. It took him very little time to memorise it.

Sasank could hardly wait for the next day to dawn, so that he could try the mantra on the nearest mango tree. After what seemed a never-ending night, the first rays of the sun peeped out. Sasank rushed out to the tree, chanted the mantra reverentially, and waited with bated breath. Would the miracle work?

The next moment, he had his answer. Clusters of golden mangoes formed on the tree before his awestruck eyes; the next moment, they cascaded down to the ground at his feet.

Elated, Sasank scooped up a mango and bit into it. It was the most delicious fruit he had ever eaten.

(To continue)

- Retold by Rajee Raman

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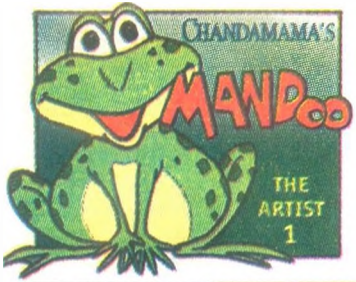

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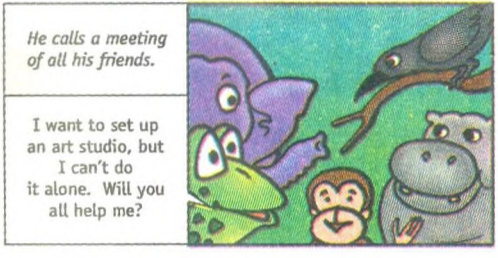
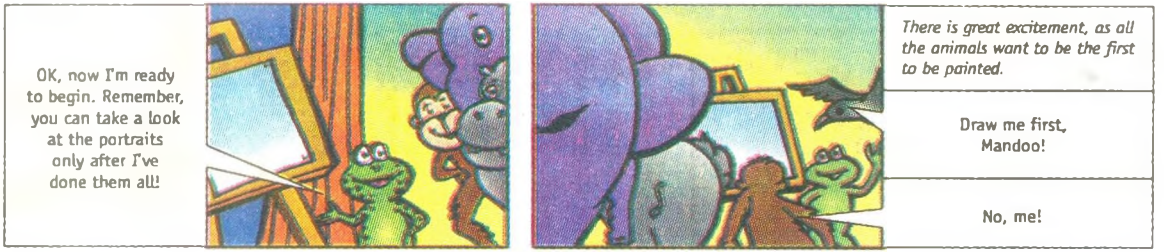


Mandoo's friends, Ana Elephant, Bandhu Monkey, Hippy Hippo, Kaka Crow, and Rex Gorilla, all help him build and furnish the studio.


OK, now I'm ready to begin. Remember, you can take a look at the portraits only after I've done them all!
There is great excitement, as all the animals want to be the first to be painted.
Draw me first, Mandoo!
No, me!

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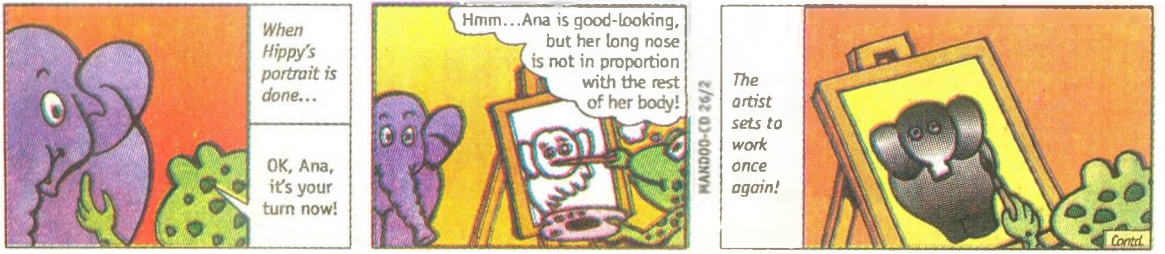
Hippy, I'll draw you first. Go and sit there, and strike a good pose!
Hippy's grey colour makes him look ugly. I'll give him a beautiful new look.
Hippy's profile is totally altered by Mandoo.


When Hippy's portrait is done...
OK, Ana, it's your turn now!
Hmm...Ana is good-looking, but her long nose is not in proportion with the rest of her body!
MANDOO-CD 26/2
The artist sets to work once again!
Contd.

- Prof. George John Nidhiry

India and Iran - Joint Issue

India and Iran have centuries old cultural and civilizational contacts. Through these contacts, we have enriched each other in the fields of art, architecture, literature, etc. This cordial relation is strengthened by the exchange of visits of high-level dignitaries. In 1993 and 2001, the then prime ministers of India visited Iran, and in return the President of Iran, Seyed Mohammad Khatami visited India in 2003. The New Delhi declaration signed during this visit emphasized the strategic partnership between the two nations. Important areas of bilateral cooperation were identified through discussions during this visit. The joint issue of stamps by the two countries forms another milestone in India-Iran relations. The stamps depict the Indian mystic poet Kabir, and Hafiz Shirazi, the Persian mystic and writer of ghazals.

World Heritage - Italy

Heritage is our legacy from

the past, how we live today and what we pass on to future generations. Our cultural heritage and natural heritage are both irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration. The General Conference of UNESCO in 1972 adopted a convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. This is better known as the World Heritage Convention. More than 150 nations signed the convention.

About 800 sites have been identified and included in the World Heritage List. The 2002 UN stamps depict the World Heritage Sites of Italy: the Tower of Pisa, the Forum at Pompeii and the Dome of the Cathedral at Florence.

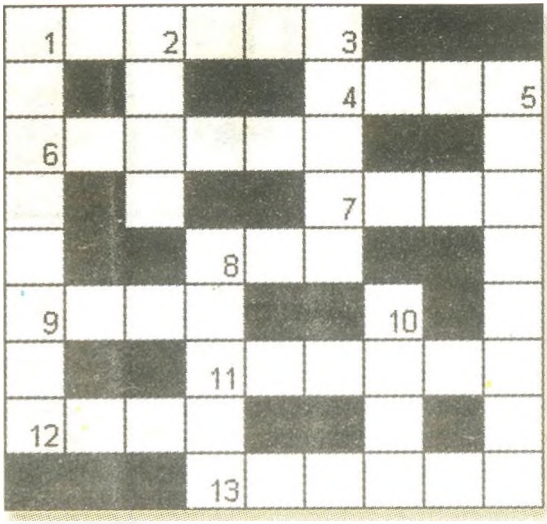
Herbs and Spices: St. Vincent

St. Vincent is an independent state within the Commonwealth since 1979. It is a group of islands in the Caribbean Sea. The economy is based on agriculture. It is the largest producer of arrowroot.

Herbs and species of St. Vincent are a major source of income for the country. The stamps depict, ginger, pepper, nutmeg and sweet marjoram.

Crossword

- K. S. Geethavani, Coimbatore



Across:

1. A. C. Doyle's creation : Sherlock ———— (6)
4. A shape, elliptical (4)
6. Writing instrument (6)
7. Lake between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan (4)
8. Taint, spoil (3)
9. Festive celebration (4)
11. Regain or recover after a loss (6)
12. It is in the middle of our face (4)
13. Shellfish, like a prawn (6)

Down:

1. Seven-sided shape (8)
2. Take: give as Borrow : ———— (4)
3. Relating to the sun (5)
5. Sweet attached to a small stick (8)
8. Female horses (5)
10. The festival of colours (4)

(See page 97)

Bekal Fort

Bekal fort, the largest and the best-preserved fort in Kerala, lies 16 km south of Kasaragod on the national highway at the northern tip of the State.

The fort, a circular imposing structure of laterite rising 130 ft. above sea level, stands on a 35 acre headland that runs into the Arabian sea. This fort is believed to have been built in the 1650s by Sivappa Naik of the Ikkeri dynasty. Later it was transferred to Hyder Ali of Mysore and then to the British.

The fort with its zigzag entrance, strategically designed openings on the outer walls for defense and trenches around, has no palaces inside and was probably built just for defence purposes. The underground tunnels and the observation tower in the fort are impressive. The Bekal Fort has been a source of attraction to historians, tourists and nature lovers for centuries since it embodies memories of a glorious past.

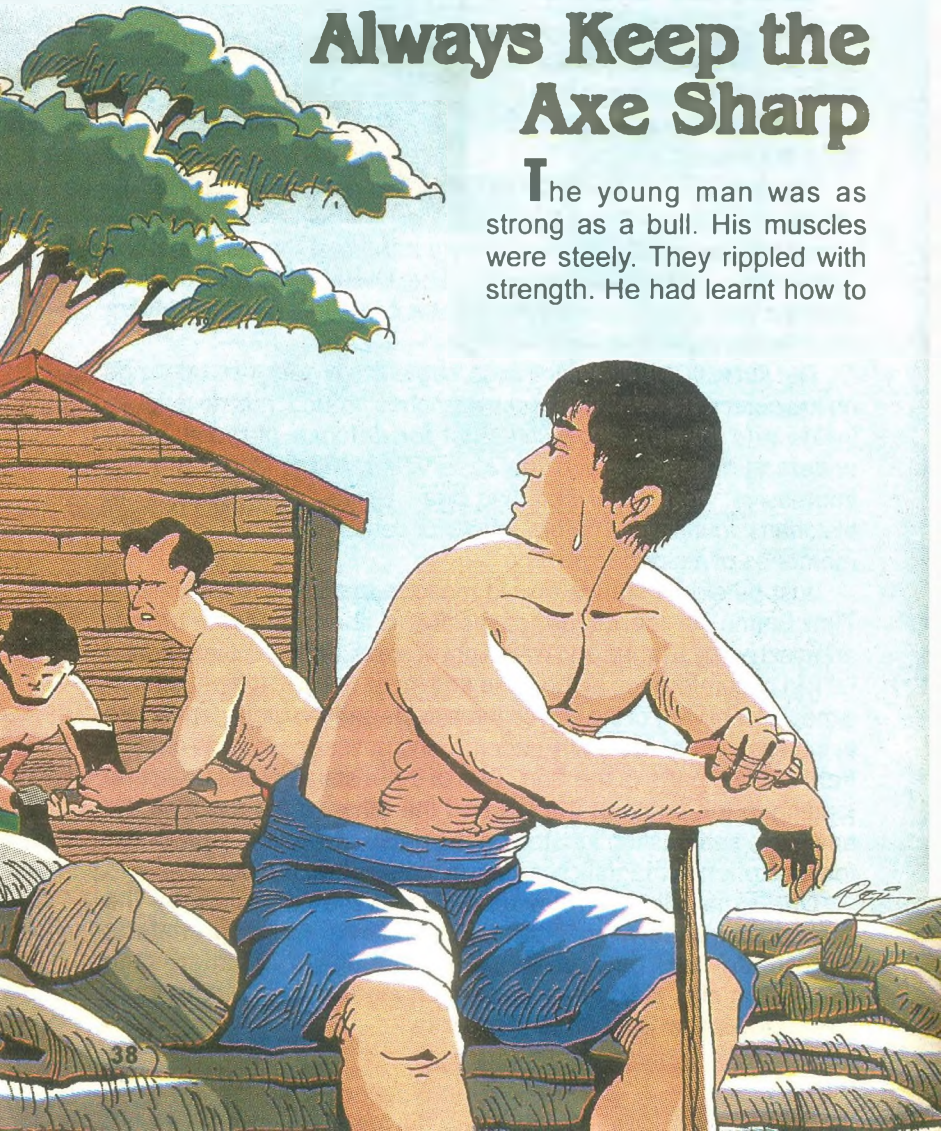
Just outside it stands an old mosque, believed to be built by Tipu Sultan. In the middle of the fort is the observation tower approached by a broad and wide flight of stairs. The structure, around 80 ft in circumference at the base and more than 30 ft high, affords a magnificent view of the sea on three sides and the green landscape to the east. There are many underground passages leading outside from various parts of the Fort. Two of them still remain intact, one leading to the south of the fort and the other to the moat on the east. The sea bastion located on the rocky projection, west of the fort also offers a magnificent view of the sea and the beach.

Due to its historic relevance, the fort is controlled by the Archaeological Survey of India. Coins and other historical artefacts were unearthed by archaeologists making it an interesting excavation site. Bekal is also one among the five centres to be developed into a 'Special Tourism Area'.

- *R. K. Murthi, New Delhi*

Always Keep the Axe Sharp

The young man was as strong as a bull. His muscles were steely. They rippled with strength. He had learnt how to



chop wood from his father, a woodcutter.

The old man knew how to cut huge logs of wood and turn them into piles of firewood. He never acted in haste. He checked every log on which he was to work. He located the knots that are difficult to chip off. He chose the weakest spot in the log. Only then did he get down to work. He knew where to make the first cut. He did that. He proceeded steadily, working his way through the log. He was indeed very good at this work. He rarely ever got hurt either. Often flints flew up, when the axe landed on hard wood. They hit whatever stood in their way. The woodcutter knew how to avoid the flying chips.

The young man learned all these from his father. The old man had a final piece of advice for his son. "Be always alert. Keep the axe always sharp."

The son learnt all the basic lessons that a woodcutter ought to know. But he did not take the last piece of advice seriously. An axe, he told himself, is an axe. So long as he delivered powerful blows, using the axe, on a log, the hard stuff would be sliced into firewood. He kept that thought to himself. He did not tell that to his father.

Time passed. The young man was ready to work as a woodcutter. But his father told him, "Be patient. Your time will come soon."

Finally the time arrived. The old man came down with a fever. He was bedridden for several days. He never regained his strength. "I am getting old. I don't think I am strong enough to cut wood. It is real hard work. But if I don't go to work . . . ," the old man sighed.

"Why should you work,

Riddles

Can you name three consecutive days without using the words Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday?

(See page 97)

Did You Know?

Chimpanzees use tools more than any other animal except man.

when I am here?" the young man held his father in a warm hug. The old man's eyes filled with tears. It took him some time to regain his speech.

"Go, my boy. Meet the owner of the firewood store. I have worked for him, for years. He is honest. He pays fair wages. Work hard. You will be well paid," the old man patted his son.

The young man nodded his head. His mother packed his lunch. He got hold of the axe that rested at one corner of the hut in which the family lived.

"It is very sharp," the old man warned, when the young man ran his finger on the edge and a thin line of blood formed on the finger.

"I now know," the young man grinned, while he slipped on the shoulder bag in which his mother had packed his lunch in place. He smiled at his father and then his mother, picked up the axe and walked off, humming a merry tune. He walked briskly. The cool morning breeze refreshed his spirits. He walked all the way to the firewood store. The owner of the store was sitting at the counter. The young man walked up to him. He greeted the man politely.

"Who are you?" the owner asked.

The young man identified himself. He said, "My father is getting old. I am young. I am strong. I shall work in his place."

Did You Know?

The cheetah is the only cat in the world that can't retract its claws.

"Good," the owner of the store led the young man to the vast open yard outside the store. A few men were already at work. They were cutting huge logs of wood. The owner led him to a log of wood that lay at one section of the yard. "Cut it into firewood. Be sure that the pieces are of fairly uniform size. Not too long; nor too thick."

The young man nodded his head. The owner walked back to the counter. The young man took the shoulder bag, hung it on the hook driven into the boundary wall of the yard and started work. He worked hard. The other workers often took occasional breaks from work. They chatted away merrily, while they took turns to sit by the side of a huge stone and go about sharpening the axes.

"Idlers all! How much time they waste!" the young man scowled. "I would never be like them." He worked hard. He did not rest till lunchtime. He ate his lunch quickly. He drank water from a well at some distance. Then he got back to work.

"Don't be in such a hurry, boy. If you work like this, you will tire yourself out. Come, tell me how your father is. He worked real hard. I learnt how to cut wood from him. He was the best woodcutter around in our area," said a middle-aged man, gently chewing his cud.

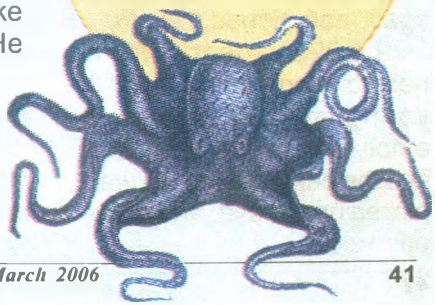
"Work is worship," the young man growled.

"I know. But one can't work from morning to dusk. One may do that for a day or two. But not for long," the man spoke softly.

The young man did not reply. He worked with

Did You Know?

Octopuses are intelligent animals, and have the ability to learn. An octopus at London Zoo in England learned how to twist the lid off a jar to reach the crab inside.



renewed vigour. By evening, he had piled up much more firewood than anyone else. The owner was immensely pleased. "Here, take this," he gave the young man his wage and also a liberal tip. The young man turned to the middle-aged man, who had asked him to go slow, and said, in a teasing tone, "See the rewards of hard work."

"Wish you can be as efficient, always!" the middle-aged man sighed.

"I will be, dear Sire. No need to worry about that," the young man collected the empty shoulder bag, tucked it into the band around his waist, picked up the axe, and walked off.

Next day, he came to work. He worked as hard as on the previous day. Not a minute did he rest! Yet, that day, the amount of firewood he could turn out was a little less than on the previous day. But it was more than what the others had produced. That cheered him. The tip he got was a little less. The young man resolved to work harder on the next day. He did that. But his pile of firewood was no larger than that of others. So he just got paid for his work. He did not receive the extra tip. That upset him. He held his face down. Tears filled his eyes.

The middle-aged man walked across to him, wiped his tears with his tunic and said, "I know why your production is falling, day by day."

"Don't tell me that I should take rest in between," the young man's voice was sharp.

"You need it, my boy," the middle-aged man repeated the message. "You think we take breaks to rest and to

"An apple a day keeps the doctor away."

This proverb comes from the ancient Romans, who believed the apple had magical powers to cure illness. In fact, apples are filled with vitamin C, protein, pectin, natural sugars, copper, and iron. They *do* promote health.

gossip. That is not quite true. Have you noticed what we do when we take breaks from work? We sit down by the huge stone and sharpen our axes."

The young man heard him in rapt attention. The man continued, "The axe turns blunt with constant use. A blunt axe cuts much less than a sharp one. Look at your axe. Is it sharp?"

The young man ran his finger on the edge. No streak of blood appeared. He then got the message. "Thank you sir, for that tip! My father gave me the same tip, but I ignored his words. I now know that one has to keep one's tools in good condition. I shall henceforth keep my axe sharp always," said the young man, as he bent low and paid respects to the elder for offering him sensible advice. ●

True or False

1) Gorillas inhabit both Africa and South America.
2) The American alligator is on the verge of extinction.
3) Lions are the only felines with tufts at the ends of their tails.
4) Foxes hunt in packs.
5) The venom of the king cobra snake is strong enough to kill an elephant.

(See page 97)

Pollution

Pollution has been troubling humans since the beginning of the 20th century or even before it. Children here and there have diseases like asthma, heart problems, etc. Pollution goes on increasing and is not stopping. It's just because of us. We, the humans, do not care what happens to the environment but just go on doing whatever we wish to do. Without even thinking what will happen to the environment, we go on and on.

A gardener, who has just mowed a big lawn, makes a bundle of the cut grass, piles it at a particular place and sets it on fire without thinking that it will pollute the environment. Instead he should dump it on some barren piece of land. The grass will rot and the minerals in it will be absorbed by the land. In a short time it will be fertile, ready for growing new plants and trees.

Industries are releasing their waste products into

rivers. The rivers get polluted badly due to the toxic materials in the waste matter released by the factories. The fishes die and plants rot. What is the result? Total destruction of the river. Over and above the destruction, the water gets dirty and does not remain fit for human consumption. Even the ashes of people who are no more in this world are thrown into the rivers Ganga and Yamuna. These rivers are considered holy in India and these rivers are being polluted by the very men who consider these rivers as holy.

Even the toilet wastes coming from houses are led into rivers, untreated. All the dirt goes into the rivers and

The Flower

Oh! what lovely flowers.
They bloom with a smile,
And cheer up with the sunrise,
Oh, what a joy for them.
But, when the butterflies come,
And suck up their blood,
They are very sad.
And as the sun sets
They sadly say to each other,
Good night.

*- **Anil Kr. Yadav**, Std VI,*
St. Robert's School,
Jakhalabandha, Assam.

Lighter Moments

Father : How were the questions at your exams?

Son : Fine, but I had difficulty in answering them.

*- Sent by **Lionel M. Dias**, Std IV A,*
St. Joseph's Boys High School, No. 98,
18th Main 6th Cross, B.T.M. Layout, Bangalore - 76.

as usual they are polluted.

Late night parties and discos and marriages are also a cause of pollution. How? Because they promote noise pollution. There are a lot of harmful effects from noise pollution.

Now-a-days, plastic bags are also in use. Plastic also plays a major role in polluting the environment. Plastic bags cannot be decomposed by the micro-organisms and hence remain as they were and block fresh air from going into the soil and hence the organisms living in the soil cannot survive. Thus the land becomes barren. The plastic cannot be burnt also. Again if it is burnt, it pollutes the air and even deadly gases are released which can cause diseases to the human body.

We, children, can help in stopping pollution. We can stop people from burning freshly cut grass or other polluting material. We can advise them to lay the grass on barren land as after due course, it will become fertile.

We should also prevent cutting of trees. Trees play a major role in purifying the air. They also cool the environment and help to bring monsoon rains. They also prevent soil erosion in hilly areas. Man has been cutting trees to satisfy his greed. I

I Saw Something Beautiful

I saw something beautiful
Which I hadn't seen before
I felt attracted
But was afraid, too.
I thought about it more and more
I know it was stupid but true.
I went for it again and again
But my heart said don't go again.

*-**Dhrishya P. Dayanand**. Std XI A, Bethany St. John's E. H. School, Kunnamkulam, Trichur, Kerala.*

would love to advise children that they should tell their neighbours about pollution and request them to help in this serious problem we are facing.

If we do not do something now, then I shiver to think that we won't be able to see our future bright and live our lives free of tension. Remember, if one tree is cut, then plant three trees. The old saying, 'If you cut a tree then plant two more trees' is most useful as we are in a serious problem right now!

*- **Siddhartha Kumar**, Std VII, 28, Officers Colony, Taylor Road, The Mall, Amritsar - 143001.*

Reversed Living

Life is tough.
It takes a lot of your time,
all your weekends,
And what do we
get at the end?
...Death, Ha! As if a great reward.
I prefer the life cycle
to be backwards
You die first and get it out of the way.
Then you live twenty years in an old age home.
You get kicked about when you're young,
You get a gold watch, you go to work.
You work for forty years until you're young enough,
To enjoy your retirement.
You go to college,
you party until you're ready for high school,
You become a little kid, you party and you have no responsibilities,
You become a little boy or girl; you go back into the womb,
You spend your last nine months floating.
And then, you finish off as a gleam in someone's eye!

*- **Priyal Garbyal**,*
Std IX D, Apeejay School, Sheikh Sarai, New Delhi.

Pen Pals

1. S. Lakhan, Std VIII, Chola House, Sainik School, Amravathi Nagar, Coimbatore. H&I: Reading.
2. Benson B. John(13), 24, Panna Vihar Colony, New Bhupalpura, Udaipur, Rajasthan - 313001. H&I: Playing chess, reading and listening to music.
3. Jigmet Singey(18), Nalanda House, Military School, Chail, Shimla Hills, Solan, H.P. H&I: Swimming, dancing and collecting stamps.
4. Neeraj Dhaiya(14), 3130 Nalanda House, Military School, Chail, Shimla Hills, H.P. H&I: Playing cards, boxing and dancing.
5. Abhineet Kumar(15), Sri Satya Sai Vidyapeeth, Nandi Bazar, Sri Sailam, Katalur, Calicut - 673531. H&I: Playing football, listening to music and watching movies.
6. Muniza Bai(11), Std VII A, "Fatah", Kamaleswaram, KRA 50, Aryankuzhi Road, Manacaud, Trivandrum - 695009. H&I: Watching TV, collecting stamps and coins and travelling.
7. Goutham Raj(15), Std XI, St. Joseph's International Residential School, Sriperumbudur - 602105. H&I: Listening to music and friendship.
8. Mohammad Imran Shah, S/o Mohammad Ashraf Shah, Waguh, Sopore, Baramulla, Kashmir, J&K - 193201. H&I: Reading, listening to ghazals and travelling.
9. Manish Tripathi(16), C/o S. K. Tripathi, 21H/3A/3 Raman Ka.Pura, Sulem Sarai, Allahabad - 211011. H&I: Collecting coins and stamps, music and friendship.
10. Mudasir Changa(16), Hyder Colony, Aram Pora, Baramulla, Sopore - 193201. H&I: Reading, listening to music and playing lawn tennis.
11. Rojan Roy(13), 4375, Sainik School, Kazhakootam, Trivandrum, Kerala - 695585. H&I: Playing football and basketball.
12. Sachin(18), Sri Laxmi Nilaya, Near C.H.C. Badiadka, Perdala P.O. Kasargod - 671551, Kerala. H&I: Collecting currencies and stamps

Welcome to
Pen Pals
CLUB

Send us particulars regarding your name and address, age, the standard you study, your hobbies and interests, to the following address

Co-ordinator,
Pen Pals Club,
Children's Digest,
P. B. No. 7,
Kottayam-686001,
Kerala, India.

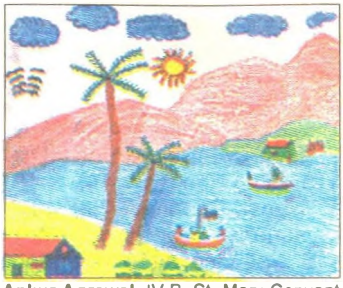
and friendship.

13. Sushant Singh(16), 3064, Ujjain House, Military School, Chail, Shimla Hills, H.P. H&I: Dancing and listening to classical music.
14. C. Rajasekar(15), Chola Seniors, Sainik School, Amaravathi Nagar - 642102, Udumalpet, T.N. H&I: Collecting stamps, chatting with friends and playing cricket.
15. Allan Ebenezer(14), F-48, E.P.F. Quarters, 15th Main Road, Anna Nagar, Chennai - 600040. H&I: Playing computer games, collecting stamps and watching movies.
16. Neil Vincent(16), Montfort School, Yercaud, Salem, T.N. - 636601. H&I: Dancing, modelling and photography.
17. Vismaya L. J.(11), D/o Jayarajan, "Safe", Pantherpadam, Kunnammangalam - 673571, Kerala. H&I: Singing, watching Cartoon Network and dancing.
18. Megha Varshini(14), D/o M.P. Joyappa, Jhakeri, Somurpet - 571236, N. Coorg, Karnataka. H&I: Reading, drawing and playing badminton.
19. Niyati Harnathka(12), 60-62 Park Villa, Shreevasta Hill View, Kovaipudur, Coimbatore - 42. H&I: Reading, painting and collecting stickers.
20. Ganapati M. Bhat(16), H. No. 616/14, Chintan, Shivnagar Xeldem, Quepem, Goa - 403705. H&I: Reading, listening to music and friendship.
21. Farhath Bai(15), Mansoor Mansion, Alisserry Ward, Alleppey - 688001, Kerala. H&I: Singing, cooking and dancing.
22. Vikas Kumar(14), Std IX A, Nalanda House, 3237, Military School, Chail, Shimla. H&I: Reading, playing chess and boxing.
23. Jaivinder Bansal(17), 2996, Taxila House, Military School, Chail, Shimla Hills, Solan - 173217, H.P. H&I: Listening to music, driving and mountaineering.
24. S. Sherene Annabel(14), D/o J. Selwyn Andrews, F4 ARA Towers, II-B Cross, Thillainagar, Trichy - 620018, Tamil Nadu. H&I: Playing keyboard, singing and listening to music.
25. Salender Gautam(17), 2995, Ujjain House, Military School, Chail, Solan - 173217, H.P. H&I: Listening to music, reading and mountaineering.
26. Hitesh Bahuguna, Asian School, Vasant Vihar, Indira Nagar, Dehra Dun - 248006, Uttaranchal. H&I: Horse riding, playing tennis and swimming.
27. C. Trupti Chengappa(13), D/o C. R. Chengappa, Kannangala, Yedoor, Vontiangadi, Ammathi, South Coorg. H&I: Playing basketball, listening to music and reading.

YOUNG ARTISTS

S. G. Beereshkumar, VIII B, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore-560012.

V. Samyukta, VI C, St. Xavier's School, 4, Raj Niwas Marg, Delhi-110054.

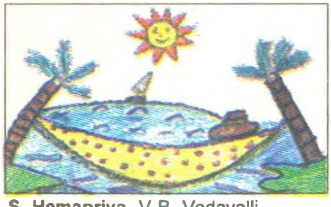


Ankur Agrawal, IV B, St. Mary Convent Inter College, Rajaji Puram Lucknow.

Ankita Agrawal, VI G, Delhi Public School, Bhilai.

Ashlesha Mittal, IV B, Hansraj Public School, Panchkula, Haryana.

P.A. Theofilla Paul, VII B, Christuraja Matric. Higher Secondary School, Marthandam.



S. Hemapriya, V B, Vedavalli Vidyalaya Senior Secondary School, Walajapet-632513.

Dechamma P.N., VII, St. Anne's Convent, Siddapur, Kodagu, Karnataka-571253.

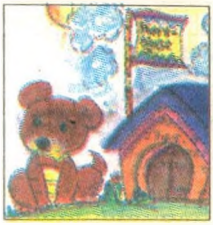
B. Nivedha, VI B, Infant Jesus Mat. School, Sukkampalayam P.O., Palladom-641662.

Nitin Dhingra, II B, The Chintels School, 121, Ratan Lal Nagar, Kanpur.

Sreevalsan K., IX B, No.8, BARHSS, Bovikana, Kasaragod.

Neena C. John, VIII B, St. Anthony's Sr. Sec. School, New Delhi-110024.

Aishwarya P.H., VII EM, St. Anne's Convent, Siddapur, Kodagu, Karnataka.



V. S. Jeyadra, D4-116, BHEL, Kailasapuram, Trichy, TN-620014.

D. Muthumani, VIII, Jaivabai Girls Higher Secondary School, Tirupur, Covai Dt.

S. Nishanthi, No. 43, Jeevanantham St., Kollampullayam, Erode-638002.

Pallav Pandey, V C, Bal Bharti Public School, New Delhi.

Shameema K.S., IX D, No. 55, S.H. of MCGHS, Kandassankadavu.

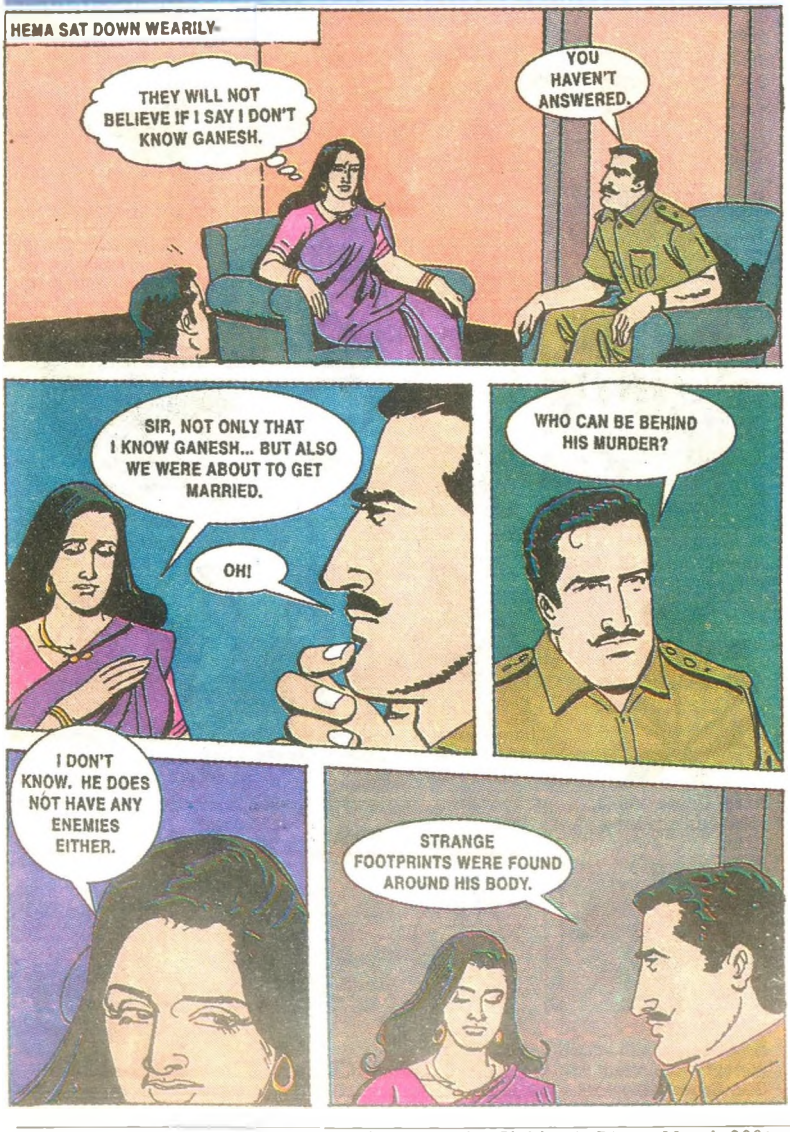
Purbasha Sheme, P3 A, Gyan Bharati School, Saket, New Delhi.

Akriti Gupta, VIII D, Hillwoods Academy, Delhi.

A. Anusiya, VIII A, St. Joseph's Convent Hr. Sec. School, Nagercoil.

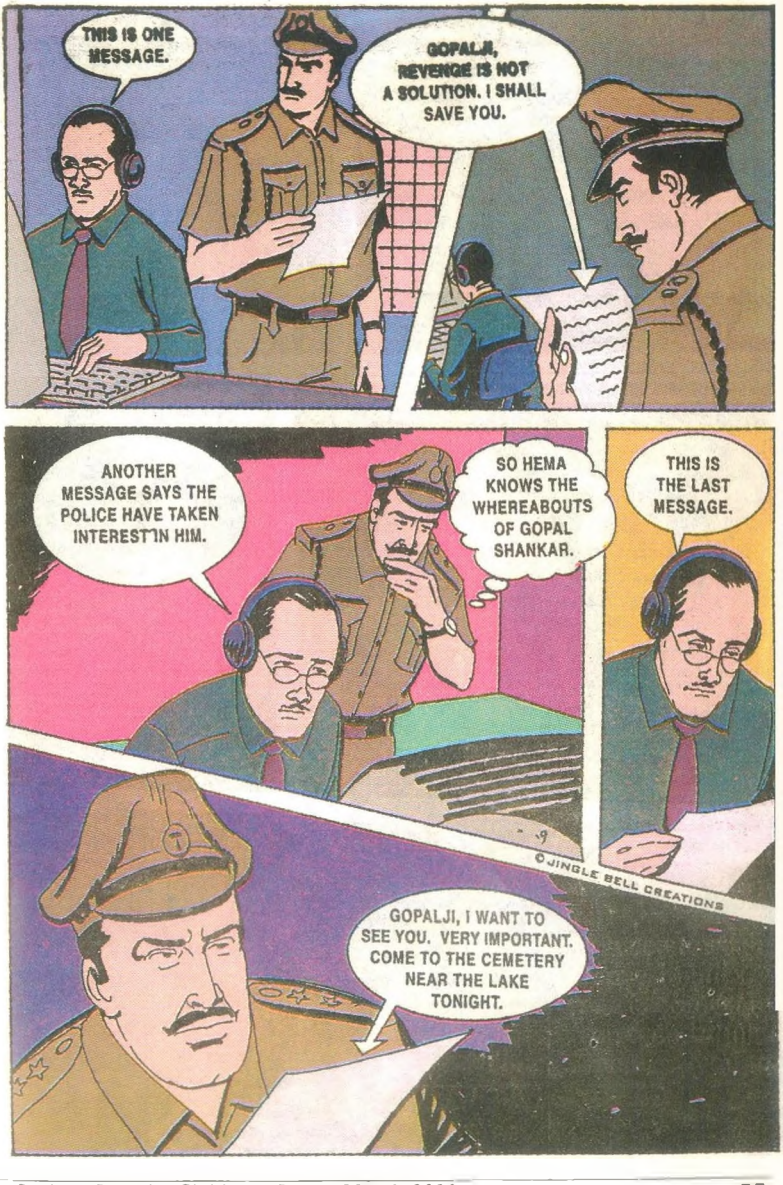
How to Draw a scared cat

GORILLA PALACE


HEMA SAT DOWN WEARILY.
THEY WILL NOT BELIEVE IF I SAY I DON'T KNOW GANESH.
YOU HAVEN'T ANSWERED.
SIR, NOT ONLY THAT I KNOW GANESH... BUT ALSO WE WERE ABOUT TO GET MARRIED.
OH!
WHO CAN BE BEHIND HIS MURDER?
I DON'T KNOW. HE DOES NOT HAVE ANY ENEMIES EITHER.
STRANGE FOOTPRINTS WERE FOUND AROUND HIS BODY.

DO YOU HAVE ANY EXPLANATION FOR THAT?
SOME WILD ANIMAL...?
IT CAN BE A GORILLA TOO, RIGHT?
UH!
WE ARE LEAVING NOW. BUT WE MAY MEET AGAIN.
WHEN HEMA WAS ALONE-
MY GOD! IT SEEMS THEY HAVE FOUND OUT EVERYTHING.
I WILL SEND HIM A MAIL IMMEDIATELY.

TWO DAYS LATER-
SIR, OUR CYBER EXPERTS ARE HERE.
LET THEM IN.
SIR, WE BRING NEWS.
SOMEBODY IS SENDING MESSAGES REGULARLY TO THE MISSING GOPAL SHANKAR'S ID.
WHAT? WHO?
IT IS FROM THIS ID.
OHO!


THIS IS ONE MESSAGE.
GOPALJI, REVENGE IS NOT A SOLUTION. I SHALL SAVE YOU.
ANOTHER MESSAGE SAYS THE POLICE HAVE TAKEN INTEREST IN HIM.
SO HEMA KNOWS THE WHEREABOUTS OF GOPAL SHANKAR.
THIS IS THE LAST MESSAGE.
©JINGLE BELL CREATIONS
GOPALJI, I WANT TO SEE YOU. VERY IMPORTANT. COME TO THE CEMETERY NEAR THE LAKE TONIGHT.

THAT NIGHT AT THE CEMETERY-
HAS HE COME?
HEMA CAREFULLY LOOKED AROUND.
NOBODY.
BUT WHAT ARE THOSE FIGURES BEHIND THE TREES?
EH! SOMETHING MOVED!
NEXT MOMENT-

HEMA'S EYES WIDENED.
GOPALJI!
GRRR...
GROWL...
LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY.
DO NOT ATTACK ANYBODY.
POLICE HAVE DOUBTS REGARDING THE DEATH OF GANESH.

THE POLICE BELIEVE THAT A GORILLA IS BEHIND EVERYTHING.
IT IS DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO FOLLOW CHOUDHARY.
AT THE NAME OF CHOUDHARY, THE GORILLA LOST ITS TEMPER.
GRRR...
OH NO!
DON'T SHOUT... IT WILL BE TROUBLE IF PEOPLE SEE YOU.
THE GORILLA CALMED DOWN.
STAY IN THAT PALACE. I SHALL SAVE YOU.

SUDDENLY A VOICE THUNDERED FROM THE DARK!
FIRE!
AND-
BANG!
BANG!!
GRR...
HEMA HAD A SHOCK OF HER LIFE.
POLICE!
© JINGLE BELL CREATIONS
IN A FLASH THE MONSTER REVENGEFULLY LIFTED HEMA.
(To be continued)

Idioms are 'back'!

Have you noticed that there are plenty of idioms with the word 'back' as part of the expression? When we are in a defensive position and have to make choices that we would like to avoid, why do we say we have our 'back up against the wall'? The wall represents an external force that causes us to act in a way that we would not like. This force may also prevent us from acting when we would like to.

The idiomatic expression, 'the straw that broke the camel's back' implies that it is the last thing one is willing to accept after which he or she will not put up with it any more. There is a limit to how much straw a camel can carry on its back. If you keep putting more straw on top, it will finally break the camel's back. When you are at the last straw, you are finally angry and will not take any more.

Quite often we hear people say that they had to take a back seat . This is nothing to do with a car, but was originally a parliamentary expression derived from the relative low influence of persons and issues from the back benches (the bench-seats where members sit in the House of Commons), as opposed to the front benches, where the leaders of the Government and Opposition sit.

Persons who became words — Rudolf Diesel

Rudolf Diesel (1858 – 1913), the inventor of the diesel engine, was born in 1858 in Paris. He was educated at Munich Polytechnic and after graduation, became a refrigeration engineer. He was greatly interested in engine design. In 1892, he invented the diesel engine, which is a type of internal combustion engine. He operated his first successful engine in 1897, and in 1898 received a patent for his invention. The diesel engines of today, used in submarines, ships, locomotives, and large trucks and in electricity generating plants, are refined and improved versions of Rudolf Diesel's original concept. Diesel died in 1913 while crossing the English Channel.

The Adventures of Robin Hood- 5

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Soon all Nottingham was agog with the news that the Sheriff's attempt to capture Robin Hood had ended in ignoble failure. For days, the people could not talk of anything else. It amused them immensely that the man who had been entrusted with the job of serving a warrant on Robin Hood had actually joined the outlaw's band himself!

The Sheriff was furious, and swore that he would hang the treacherous tinker if ever he caught him. To add fuel to the fire of his rage was the knowledge that the people were now laughing at him for having been outwitted by the outlaw. He declared: "It's time our great King came to know how his laws are being perverted and defied by this band of rebel outlaws! I shall meet him and apprise him of the situation."

Summoning all his servants and retainers, he ordered them to get ready to leave for London, for a meeting with the King himself.

For the next two days, the Sheriff's castle was abuzz with activity, as uniforms and cavalry trappings were readied and armours mended post-haste. At last, everything was ready, and the Sheriff and his retinue set out for London in a magnificent procession. As they rode along the highway, their dazzling armour and gay plumes and trappings made a grand spectacle.

After a two-day-long journey, they reached the King's palace in London. The Sheriff was ushered into the King's presence.

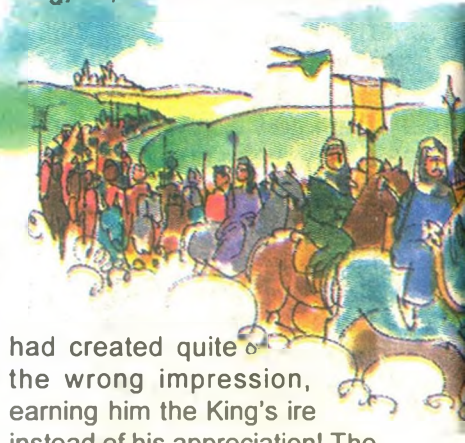
After greeting the King, the Sheriff said, "Your Majesty, I've come to make a complaint. It's about Robin Hood, a bold outlaw who has made a real menace of himself in my area."

"Robin Hood? News of his saucy deeds has travelled as far as London; I myself have heard of him," said the King.

The Sheriff querulously complained, "My lord, he's a rascal who kills your deer and robs your loyal subjects. I sent him a warrant bearing your own royal seal, through a messenger – but he actually had the audacity to beat up the messenger and steal the warrant!"

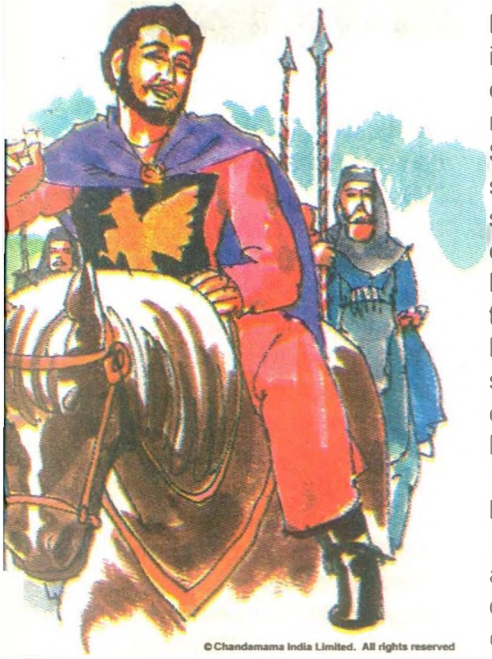
Hearing this, the King lost his temper. "So what do you want me to do? You come to meet me with a great array of armed men in shining armour; yet, for all your show of might, you're unable to capture a little band of outlaws armed with only bows and arrows, in your own stronghold! Aren't you ashamed of yourself, man? You're my Sheriff, authorised to enforce my laws in Nottinghamshire, with the backing of my law and order machinery! Can't you take your own course against those who break the laws? For now, get out of here! Go back to your post and think up – by yourself, without pestering me – some way to capture Robin Hood. And it had better be fast, mind! For, I want my laws obeyed by all in my kingdom, and have no use for a Sheriff who is incapable of enforcing them. So, if you fail, it shall bode ill for you!"

Smarting from the rebuke, the Sheriff bowed and withdrew. Now he wished with all his heart that he had not set out to impress the King; for, his fine accoutrements had created quite the wrong impression, earning him the King's ire instead of his appreciation! The king saw his large retinue as a sign of incompetence rather than



grandeur – that despite having so many men under him, he still could not catch the outlaw.

But it was too late for regrets; what was done could not now be undone. The Sheriff rode silently back to Nottingham at the head of his retinue, a sadder and wiser man. His mind was in turmoil. Besides anger and frustration at his public humiliation, there was also a dread gnawing at his mind as he remembered the King's final threat.



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He now *had* to do something to bring that slippery rascal of a Robin Hood to book! It was no longer a question of his prestige alone, but of his very survival! But what could he do? The Sheriff thought hard. All through the long ride, he was unusually quiet. His brain was racing swiftly ahead – considering and rejecting various schemes, one after the other.

What was Robin's character? He was basically a bold adventurer, who thrived on challenges; a merry prankster, who laughed in the face of danger. But the problem was – he lived in the woods and seldom came out to Nottingham. And there was no question of catching him in Sherwood Forest, which was his stronghold and where he was surrounded by his loyalists! If only there was some way of luring him out to Nottingham, thought the Sheriff, he could nab him and lock him away so securely that he could never escape again! But how could this be achieved?

Suddenly, the Sheriff had a bright idea.

Robin Hood was an expert archer; more importantly, he was one who could never resist a challenge. If he, the Sheriff,

announced a grand shooting contest with a splendid prize, Robin would definitely take the bait and show up at the contest! Then, arresting him would be child's play.

"I have it!" shouted the Sheriff jubilantly. "Spur up your horses, my men – let's return to Nottingham as swiftly as possible. And rest assured, the rogue Robin Hood will be in jail before a fortnight is over!"

The very next day, the Sheriff sent messengers far and wide, to proclaim all through town and countryside the news that there was to be a grand shooting match at Nottingham, open to anyone who could draw a bow. The prize was an arrow of pure gold.

The news of the contest and the magnificent prize sent the entire county into a tizzy of excitement. It was not long before the news reached the ears of Robin Hood, who was on a trip to Lincoln.

Hastening back to Sherwood Forest, Robin called his men and said, "Listen to the news, friends! Our old friend, the Sheriff, has announced a shooting contest. Guess what the prize is – a golden arrow! I want one of us to win it – not only because it's such a wonderful prize, but our good friend the Sheriff has offered it! So, let's all take our bows and arrows and go to the contest, and have some fun. What do you say, boys?"

But one of the outlaws said, "Master, I understand from the innkeeper of the Blue Boar that the contest is nothing but a trap set up by the Sheriff to catch you! Apparently, he got this information from one of the Sheriff's men. We all know the Sheriff is a wily man; so, let's not go for the contest, Master!"

(To continue)

RASHTRA DEEPIKA

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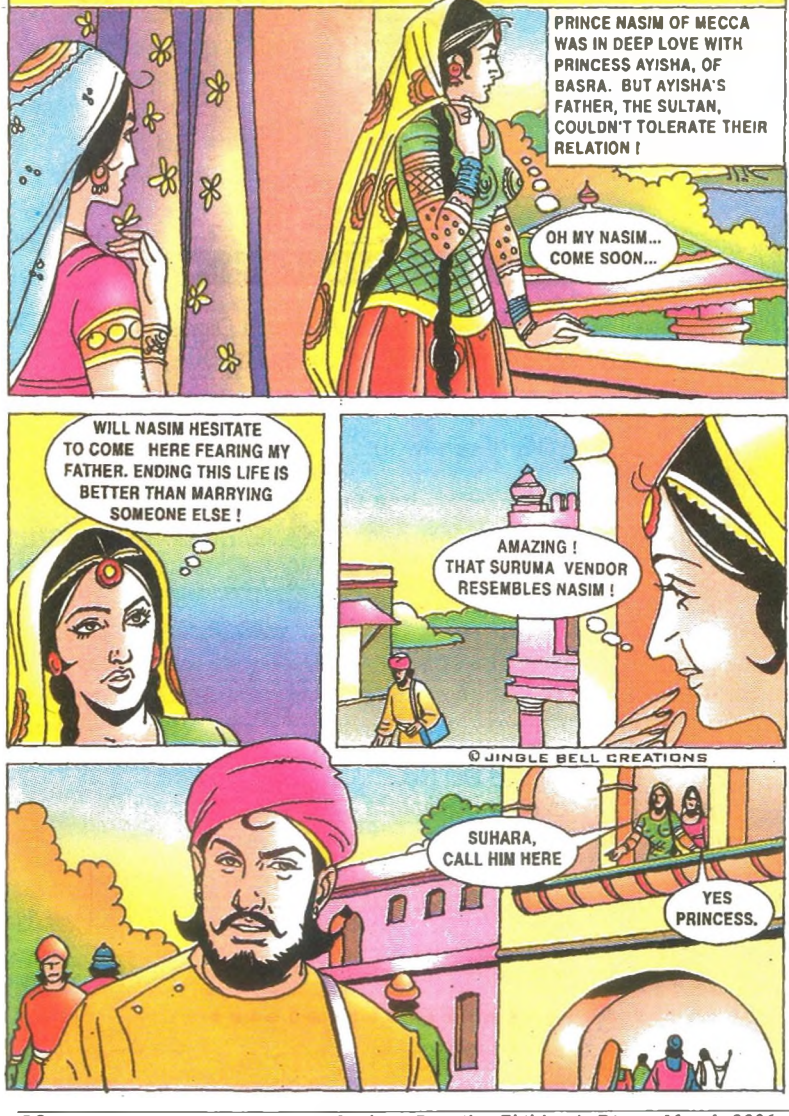
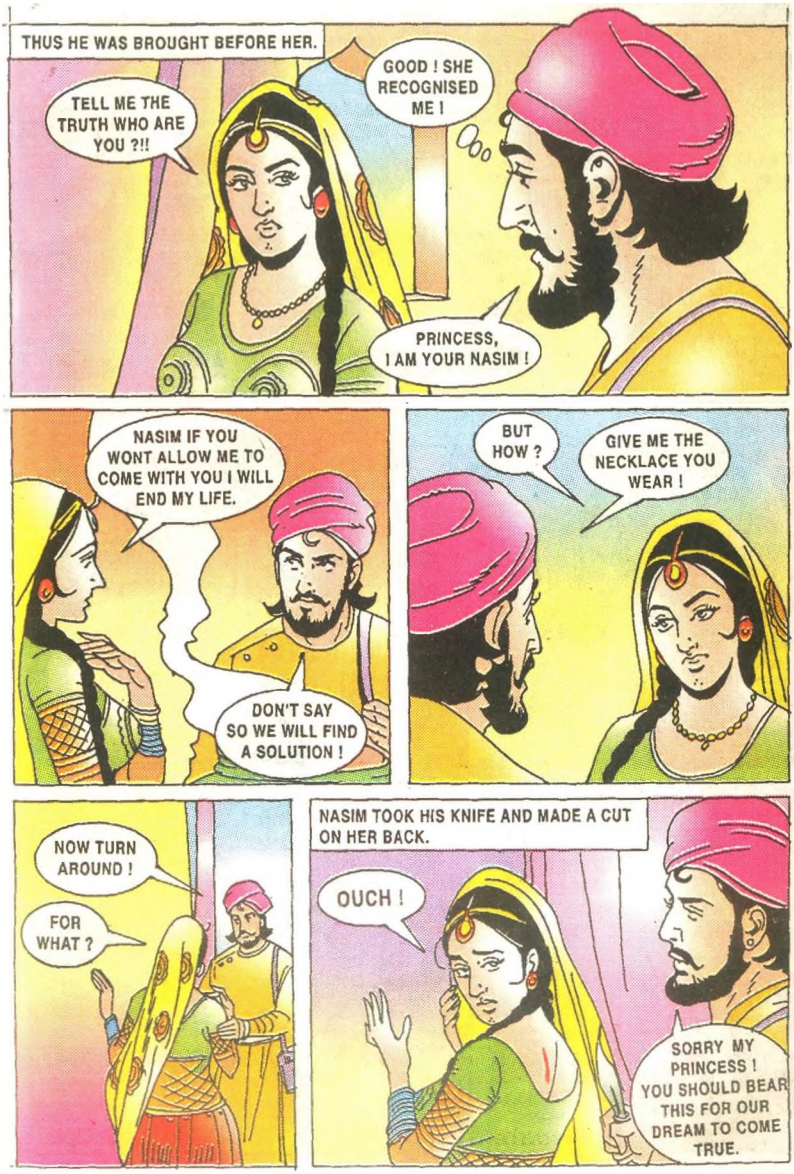
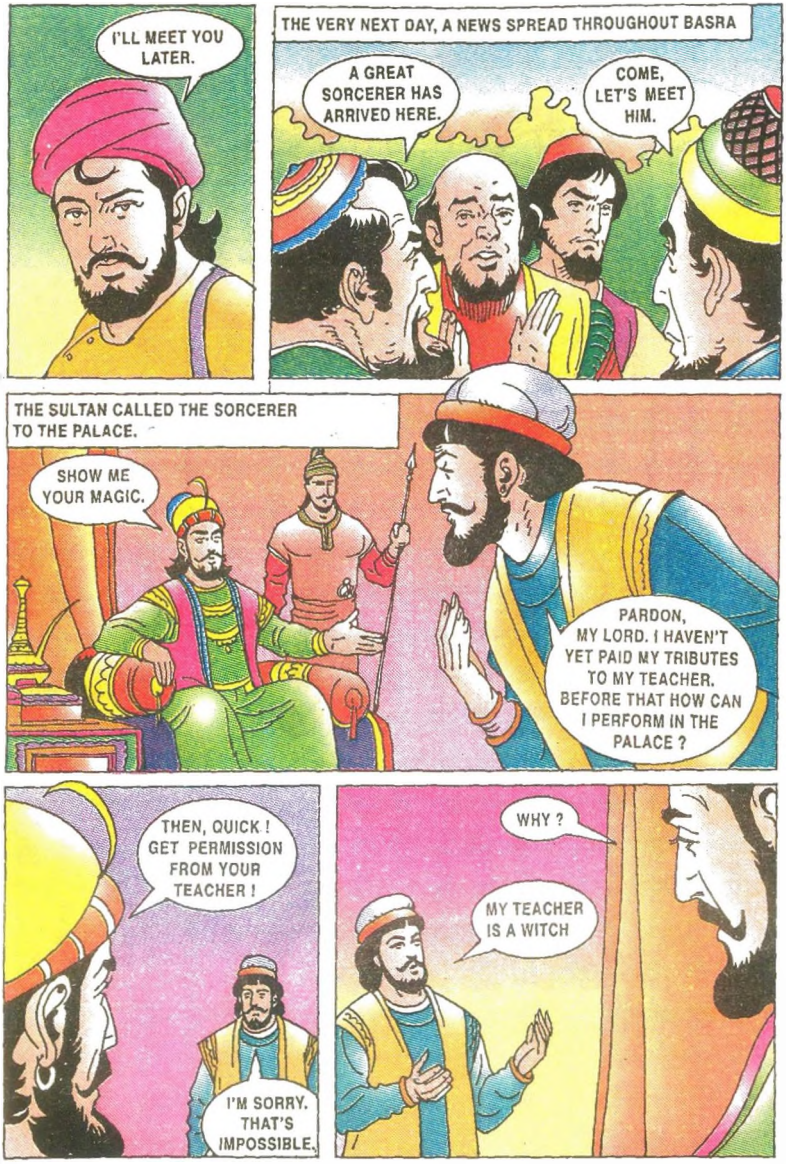
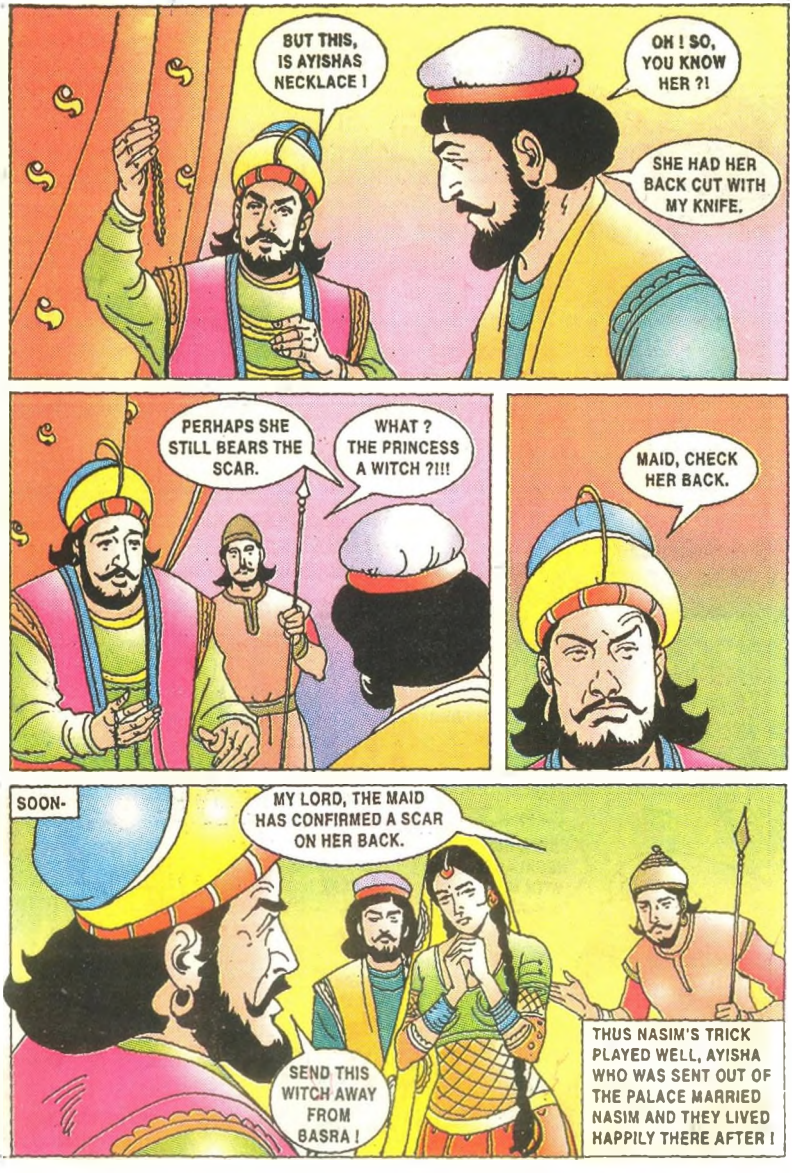
THE SORCERER'S TEACHER


PRINCE NASIM OF MECCA WAS IN DEEP LOVE WITH PRINCESS AYISHA, OF BASRA. BUT AYISHA'S FATHER, THE SULTAN, COULDN'T TOLERATE THEIR RELATION !
OH MY NASIM... COME SOON...
WILL NASIM HESITATE TO COME HERE FEARING MY FATHER. ENDING THIS LIFE IS BETTER THAN MARRYING SOMEONE ELSE !
AMAZING ! THAT SURUMA VENDOR RESEMBLES NASIM !
© JINGLE BELL CREATIONS
SUHARA, CALL HIM HERE
YES PRINCESS.


THUS HE WAS BROUGHT BEFORE HER.
TELL ME THE TRUTH WHO ARE YOU ?!!
GOOD ! SHE RECOGNISED ME !
PRINCESS, I AM YOUR NASIM !
NASIM IF YOU WONT ALLOW ME TO COME WITH YOU I WILL END MY LIFE.
DON'T SAY SO WE WILL FIND A SOLUTION !
BUT HOW ?
GIVE ME THE NECKLACE YOU WEAR !
NOW TURN AROUND !
FOR WHAT ?
NASIM TOOK HIS KNIFE AND MADE A CUT ON HER BACK.
OUCH !
SORRY MY PRINCESS ! YOU SHOULD BEAR THIS FOR OUR DREAM TO COME TRUE.


I'LL MEET YOU LATER.
THE VERY NEXT DAY, A NEWS SPREAD THROUGHOUT BASRA
A GREAT SORCERER HAS ARRIVED HERE.
COME, LET'S MEET HIM.
THE SULTAN CALLED THE SORCERER TO THE PALACE.
SHOW ME YOUR MAGIC.
PARDON, MY LORD. I HAVEN'T YET PAID MY TRIBUTES TO MY TEACHER. BEFORE THAT HOW CAN I PERFORM IN THE PALACE ?
THEN, QUICK ! GET PERMISSION FROM YOUR TEACHER !
I'M SORRY. THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
WHY ?
MY TEACHER IS A WITCH

ONCE, WHILE PASSING THROUGH A CEMETERY, I SAW HER PER FORMING ENCHANTMENTS.
BREAKING OPEN A GRAVE SHE WAS EATING THE BONE MARROW OF A DEAD BODY GIBBERING SPELLS.
SHE FLED THE MOMENT SHE NOTICED ME !
THEN FIND HER OUT QUICK.
I HAVE HER NECKLACE WITH ME !
HERE !
WHAT ?


BUT THIS, IS AYISHAS NECKLACE !
OH ! SO, YOU KNOW HER ?!
SHE HAD HER BACK CUT WITH MY KNIFE.
PERHAPS SHE STILL BEARS THE SCAR.
WHAT ? THE PRINCESS A WITCH ?!!!
MAID, CHECK HER BACK.
SOON-
MY LORD, THE MAID HAS CONFIRMED A SCAR ON HER BACK.
SEND THIS WITCH AWAY FROM BASRA !
THUS NASIM'S TRICK PLAYED WELL, AYISHA WHO WAS SENT OUT OF THE PALACE MARRIED NASIM AND THEY LIVED HAPPILY THERE AFTER !

An Oily Puzzle

Sheikh Badruddin, millionaire owner of an oil well, was very upset about his three sons, Ali, Ahmed, and Abdul. In his opinion, they were wastrels who would not lift a little finger to do any work, but only squandered away his hard-earned fortune.

It was only after the Sheikh's death that the sons received concrete evidence of his displeasure. They had expected him to leave his fortune equally to all three of them; however, the matter was not so simple. The Sheikh had left a will which read: "My property consists of 21 barrels of oil. Of them, 7 are full of oil, 7 half full, and 7 empty. This property is to be divided equally among my three sons, in such a way that each of them has exactly the same number of full barrels, the same number of half-full barrels, and the same number of empty barrels. My sons must effect the division without making use of any kind of measuring device. This is to be a test of their intelligence. In case they fail this test, the oil is to be sold and the entire proceeds given to charity."

Ali, Ahmed and Abdul are mortified. The condition set down by their father seems impossible to achieve! How can they do it? But just as they are at their wits' end, Ali's wife - a woman of rare intelligence - tells them a method by which this can be accomplished.

What is her solution?

Solution

Empty two half-full barrels into one empty barrel. Then take two more half-full barrels and empty them into another of the empty barrels. Thus, you end up having 9 full barrels, 3 half-full barrels, and 9 empty barrels, which is easily divisible by 3. Each of the sons gets 3 full barrels, 1 half-full barrel and 3 empty barrels. The father's condition is thus fulfilled!

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- Jee

Liquid Paper

Liquid paper is the white fluid which typists use to erase mistakes. Its usefulness is due to its quick-drying quality and the ability to so merge with the paper that it is difficult to note that there is a correction.

It was invented in 1951 by an American lady typist named Bette Nesmith Graham. She was working at a bank in Dallas at the time.

Bette appears to have been a very absent-minded girl as she used to make so many mistakes, in fact much more than any of her fellow typists.

Bette was worried. She was so prone to making

Bette Nesmith Graham

mistakes! She was also a painter on the sideline, and often helped with the designing and painting of holiday windows at the bank. She noticed that when artists painted letterings or designs, they could not help making errors. Bette also noticed that the artists never took the trouble of erasing the mistakes and rewriting. Instead, what he or she did was to paint over the error. Why not try the same on the typing sheet as well?

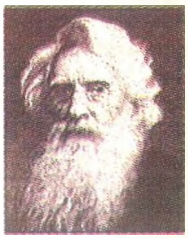
Bette mixed some paints in a bottle so that the colour was paper-white. Then she took a tiny brush with a sufficiently pointed tip and painted over the error. As the paint dried off, the error was perfectly hidden, and when she retyped the letter or word no one could detect it. She began keeping a bottle of the white paint she had invented in her desk-drawer.

At first she kept it a secret, but soon her friends at the bank came to know of it. Her fellow typists wanted some of her magic ink too. So she mixed more of it at home and sold small bottles of the white paint to her colleagues.

The paint was a success though it had its flaws. But she knew it had the potential to meet a much-needed requirement. So she decided to patent it and go into business. Before that however, it needed improvement and she referred to books and conducted her own research, taking help from a chemistry teacher and technical guidance from a worker at a paint-making company. Finally she produced a liquid which dried fast and hid the correction perfectly. It was patented in 1956, under the name Liquid Paper. ●

Did You Know?

The first message tapped by Samuel Morse over his invention the telegraph was: "What hath God wrought?"



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Hello little friends,

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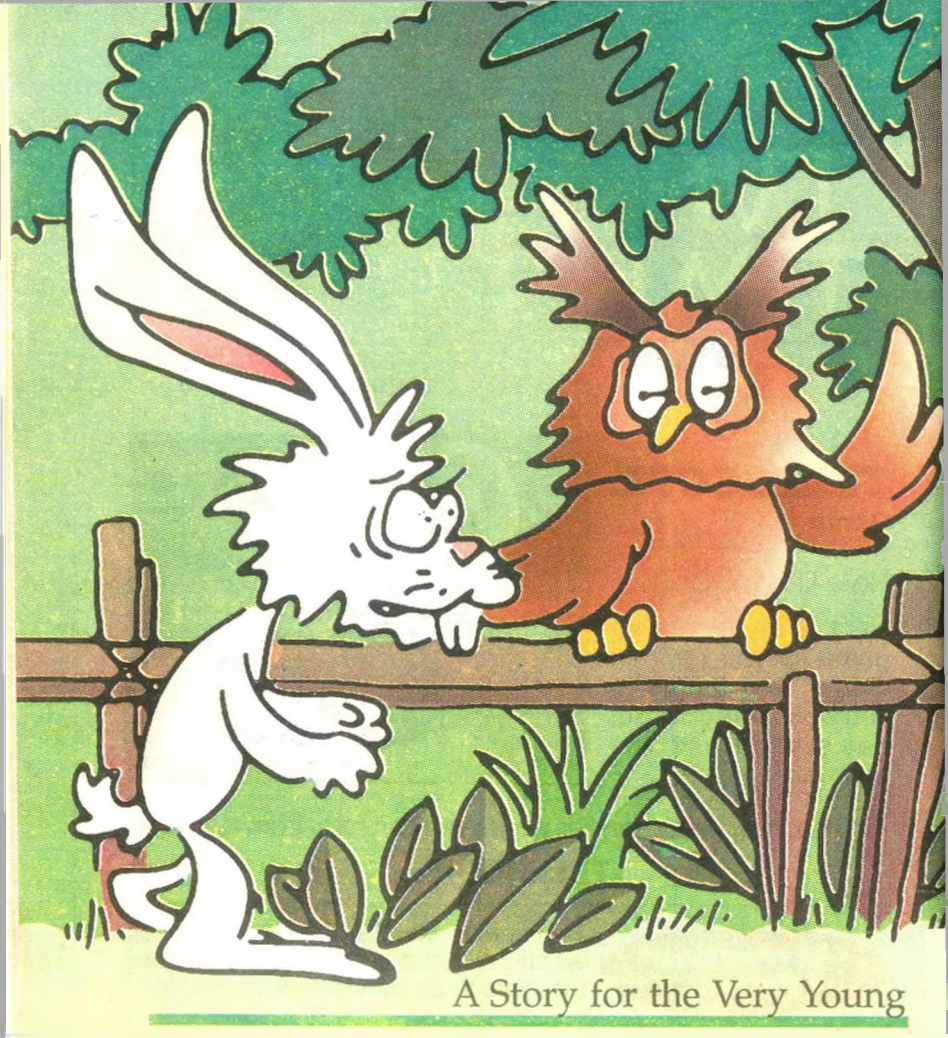
N.B.: Don't forget to put your address on the card. Also please don't repeat any letter more than the number of times it has appeared in the word.



A Story for the Very Young

THE TORTOISE AND THE HARE

Once upon a time there was a hare. A hare is rather like a large rabbit.

The hare's name was Elbert Hare. His mother, who

loved him very much, named him after her favourite uncle, Elbert.

When Elbert went to school, the other students teased him, calling him Elbert Smelbert. Elbert was not the only student to be teased. There was also a tortoise. His name was Moe and they called him Slow Moe.

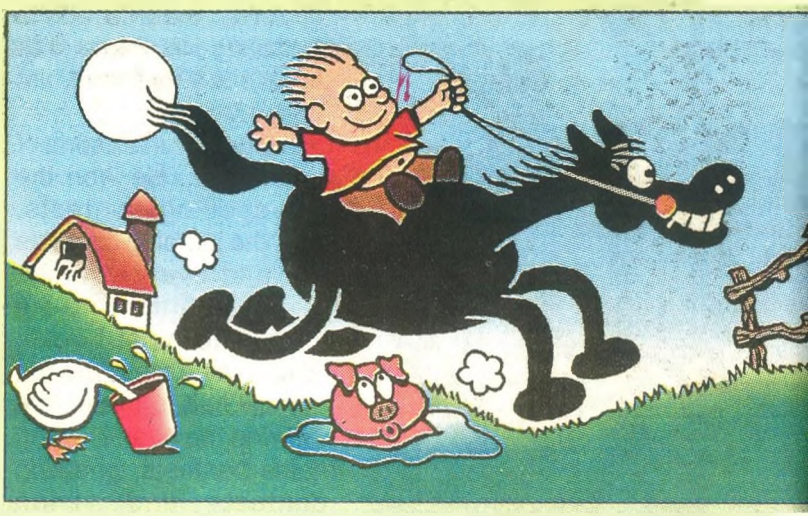
Elbert won all sorts of contests. He won the spelling contests, the jumping contests and every year he made sure that he read the most books. Even when he grew up, he still had to prove that he was the best. He won maths contests, gnawing contests and vision contests.

Every time Elbert won a contest he would say, "Ha-ha, I won another contest!!! And you lost!"

One day, Elbert decided that the only thing he had not proven was that he was the fastest animal in the woods. Elbert challenged all the animals of the forest to a race, but none of them accepted his challenge.

"What if we just say that you are the fastest animal in the woods?" said Fernando the Fox.

Elbert knew that this would



never do. He had to prove he was the fastest by winning a race.

That same day, Moe, the slow tortoise, went to visit his grandmother. This trip usually took him six hours, but that day he made it to her house in three hours.

As he looked at his watch, he thought to himself: "That was really fast. It must have something to do with all the popcorn I've been eating."

When Moe heard of Elbert's challenge he said: " I will race you, Elbert."

The day of the big race, all the animals in the wood showed up to see the event. Moe had been eating popcorn and working out every day.

Elbert, knowing that there was no way that he could lose the race, had not practiced at all.

The course was set up to go through the wood, over the hill, past the swamp and across the bridge to the finish line.

"Ready... set... go!" said Mr. Duck, and the race began. Elbert was out of sight before Moe had all four legs across the starting line.

Elbert was half-way through the wood, when Bucky Beaver cried out: "Hey,

Try It...

Which of the following are not breeds of horses?

1) Arabian
2) Samoyed
3) Clydesdale
4) Mastiff
5) Shire
6) Thoroughbred
7) Whippet

(See page 97)

Elbert! I bet I can gnaw through this tree before you can gnaw through that one!"

Elbert stopped and thought to himself, "I know I have time to win this contest, too." "Bucky Beaver, I accept your challenge, and I will win!" said Elbert.

Elbert and Bucky gnawed the trees. When Elbert was halfway through the tree, he kicked the tree with his strong hind leg and the tree tumbled over. "Ha-Ha!! I won! I have stronger teeth and bones," said Elbert.

While Bucky and Elbert were gnawing, Moe headed into the forest.

Elbert raced on to the hill, where Octavius the Owl, was sitting on a fence. Octavius said: "Elbert, I was wondering if you could see what that sign over there says."

Elbert stopped and looked at the sign. "I can read that sign. Did you see the bee that is sitting on the sign?"

Octavius stared at the bee on the sign and said: "I see the bee, but what is he holding?"

Elbert peered out into the distance and said: "It appears that he is holding a sign. Can

Did You Know?

Candy is made simply by dissolving sugar in water. The different heating levels determine the types of candy: Hot temperatures make hard candy, medium heat will make soft candy and cool temperatures make chewy candy.

Quiz of the Month

Prof. N.G.J.

1. Who wrote:
   "That it will never come again
   Is what makes life so sweet."
2. 'March', the month, is named after the Roman god of war, 'Mars'. Name the Roman goddess of war.
3. Where can one see the 184.5 carat Imperial Jacob Diamond, the sixth largest one in the world?
4. What is the name given to the 9.1 million digit prime number, the recently found largest prime?
5. Name the book by James Laine which was banned by the Maharashtra Government very recently.
6. Which city will host the 2006 Winter Olympics?
7. Where is the KECK Observatory?
8. Give the meaning of "Kimi ga yo wa" the National Anthem of Japan.
9. William Shakespeare is known as the 'Bard of

you read what the sign says?"

Octavius strained to see what the bee's sign said. "No I can't make out the wording on the sign. I guess your vision is even better than mine. You win. What does the sign say?"

Elbert squinted his eyes. "The sign says 'Go slow Moe' and if you ate your carrots like I do, you could read it too."

While Elbert was talking with Octavius Owl, Moe made it through the wood.

When Elbert got through the swamp, Fernando Fox stepped into the road and said: "I have a riddle for you."

Elbert, who could never resist a chance to show off his cleverness, said, "Please tell me your riddle, and I will know the answer."

"What walks on four legs in the morning, two legs during the day and three legs in the evening?" asked Fernando Fox.

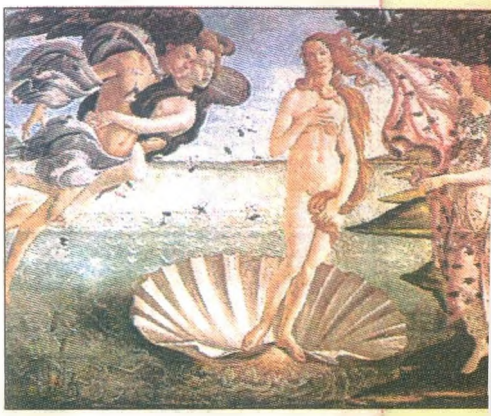
"That is a very good riddle. I will have to think about that one," said Elbert. He sat down on a tree stump and started to think.

While he was thinking, Moe went up the hill.

Elbert thought, and thought and thought some

Avon.' Who is known as the 'Bard of Twickenham'?

10. Before its independence in 1980, what was the name of the Republic of Vanuatu?
11. Name the British ICS official who helped to found the Indian National Congress, after his retirement.
12. According to the Jewish calendar, which year is considered to be the year of the creation of the world?
13. Whose birth is portrayed in this famous painting by Sandro Botticelli?



(See page 97)

more.

Moe went down the hill, faster than he had gone up the hill.

Elbert did not notice when Moe passed by him in the swamp, because he had finally figured out the answer.

"I have the answer to your riddle!" cried Elbert. "It is the human animal. They crawl when they are babies, walk on two legs, and then when they are old, they use a cane - that makes three legs."

Fernando Fox declared: "You have the right answer, but you had better hurry now because Moe is crossing the bridge as we speak."

"Inconceivable!" said Elbert, and he hopped off toward the finish line.

When Elbert got to the bridge, Moe had just crossed the finish line and all the animals were singing, "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow."

From that day on, Moe and Elbert were best buddies. Elbert realized that winning was not everything and Moe, now the fastest animal in the woods, was happy to share his popcorn with his pal Elbert.

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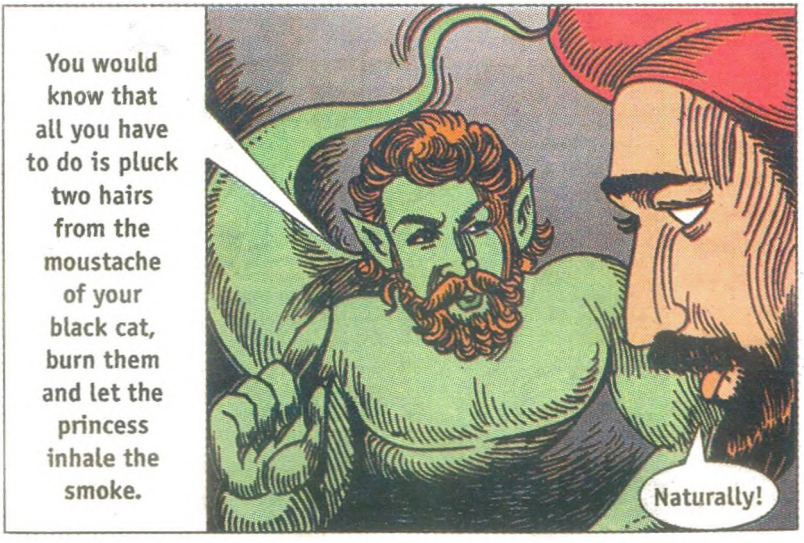
You would know that all you have to do is pluck two hairs from the moustache of your black cat, burn them and let the princess inhale the smoke.
Naturally!

Outside the well, Ajib's disciples were searching for him.

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The next morning, Ajib amazed everyone by emerging from the well!

Only a great soul like you could come out of the well like that.
I'm fine. Go back to your homes peacefully.
What a miracle! God is great!

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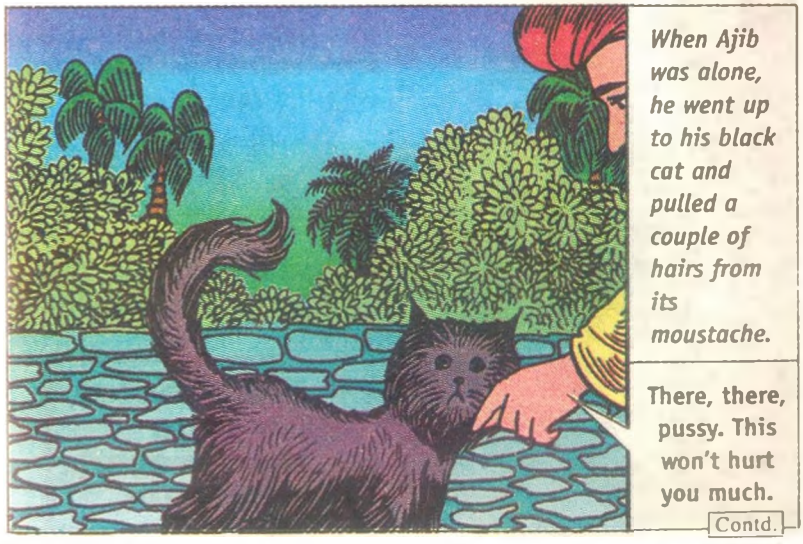

When Ajib was alone, he went up to his black cat and pulled a couple of hairs from its moustache.
There, there, pussy. This won't hurt you much.

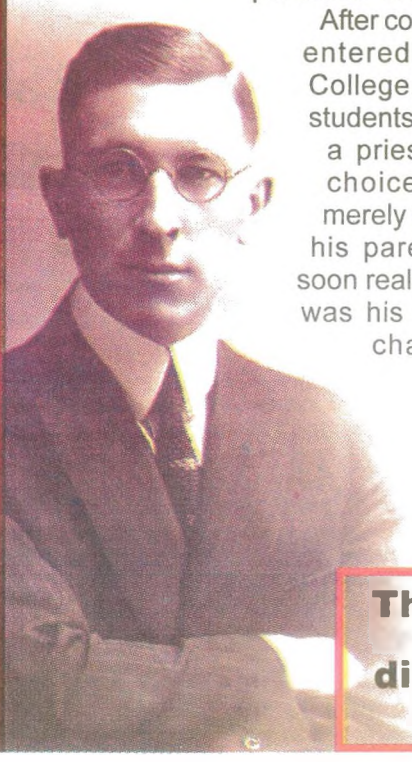
Contd.

Frederick Banting (1891-1941)

The Doctor who discovered Insulin

- *P. Gopalakrishnan*

Frederick Banting was born on November 19, 1891 on a farm near Alliston, in the Ontario province of Canada. He was the youngest of five children born to William Thompson Banting and Margaret Grant. Frederick was an athletic, artistic, hard-working and determined student, but undistinguished in any particular field.



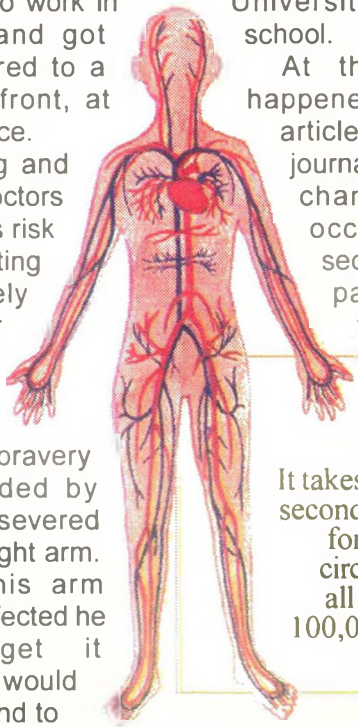
After completing school he entered the Divinity College, which prepares students for the vocation of a priest. It was not his choice really; he was merely trying to fulfill what his parents desired. He soon realized that medicine was his real interest and changed his field.

Banting completed his medical education taking a postgraduate degree, M.D., in 1916, when the First World War was at its peak. Canada had joined the war and he wanted to help his country. So he enlisted in the Army Medical Corps and was sent to Europe. He was first stationed in a military hospital far away from where the fighting was taking place. But Banting wanted to work in the front line and got himself transferred to a hospital at the front, at Cambrai, in France.

There Banting and the other army doctors worked at serious risk to their lives, treating the most severely wounded under continuing enemy fire. Banting displayed great bravery and was wounded by shrapnel which severed an artery in his right arm. Even though his arm became highly infected he refused to get it amputated as it would have meant an end to his medical and military career. For his act of bravery he was awarded the King's Cross.

After the war he returned to Canada and worked as resident surgeon at the 'Hospital for Sick Children' in Toronto. As the salary didn't provide a decent living he opened practice in London, a city in Ontario. He also took up a lectureship in Ontario University's medical school.

At this time he happened to read an article in a medical journal. It was about changes that occurred in the secretions of the pancreas when the pancreatic



Did You Know?

It takes less than 90 seconds on average for the blood to circulate through all of the body's 100,000 km blood vessels!

duct was blocked by gallstones. The paper interested Banting as he was at that time preparing a lecture on the pancreas. It was known that the pancreas was the control centre of diabetes. So the article triggered the idea in him that some of the changes mentioned in it might be holding the knowledge regarding the disease and a possible remedy. Diabetes as a disease was of special significance to Banting as he had in his boyhood seen a classmate slowly wasting away before his eyes. She had, finally, died in her teens and the memory still haunted him.

Did You Know?

Calories are measurements of the amount of energy provided by different foods. People get overweight when they take in more calories, or energy, than they use up in daily activities. The extra energy is stored in the body in the form of fat. Everything we do uses up calories.

Did You Know?

Spiders have eight eyes, but most have poor eyesight and hunt by feeling vibrations with their legs.

Certain ideas came to him after reading the article and he wanted to conduct some experiments on the pancreas of dogs, particularly that part known as the 'Islets of Langerhans' with a distinct function of its own. Banting wanted to investigate the hormone secretion from it which he thought might possess the property of controlling diabetes.

But he didn't have the facility, in equipment or in funds, to conduct the research. He approached Dr. John MacLeod of the University of Toronto who had the facilities, but MacLeod was not impressed. Not discouraged, Banting made an elaborate study on his

proposed research and met MacLeod again. This time McLeod agreed. He was about to leave for Scotland for spending the summer there and Banting could use a small lab, 10 dogs and one of his assistants to conduct his research. The assistant was Charles Best. Best turned out to be of such invaluable help, that together they made a wonderful research team.

Banting and Best tied off the pancreatic ducts of the dogs for several weeks and found that the Islets of Langerhans continued to produce insulin. They extracted the insulin and injected it into a diabetic dog. The dog recovered! Its blood sugar was tested and found normal.

When MacLeod returned from Scotland he was impressed with the result of the experiment. But the most important part of the work,

(See page 97)

that of refining and purifying the insulin remained to be done. MacLeod put the full resources of the department of physiology at Banting's disposal. He also made the services of a skilled biochemist, J.B. Collip available for the research team. Collip refined and purified the insulin and made it fit for use on humans. The first patient was a fourteen-year old boy affected by juvenile diabetes. He recovered when treated with insulin. So also did some other patients, both children and adults, who followed.

But there was some confusion in the world outside Canada as to who had discovered insulin. The early reports in the media gave the credit to MacLeod, and

Banting felt hurt and angry at this, more so because MacLeod himself did nothing to dispel the misunderstanding. After nine months however, MacLeod broke his silence and issued a public statement passing the credit to Banting and Best, that they were the discoverers, but with

Try It...

Ice hockey began in the mid-1800s in ...

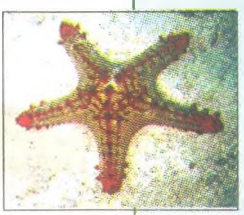
a) Russia b) Canada
c) USA

(See page 97)

assistance from his department of physiology at the Toronto University.

The discovery of insulin made Banting famous all over the world and patients came in large numbers to Toronto seeking him. Among them were celebrities like Thomas Alva Edison, H.G. Wells, and King George V of England.

The Canadian government honoured him by granting a lifetime pension. The Nobel Prize for Medicine for 1923 was awarded jointly to Banting and MacLeod. MacLeod was included as the Nobel Committee recognized that without the assistance of MacLeod, who in his own right was a highly respected doctor, the discovery could



Did You Know?

Despite their name star-fish are not fish, but belong instead to a group of small sea creatures called echinoderms. Sea urchins and sea cucumbers are also echinoderms.

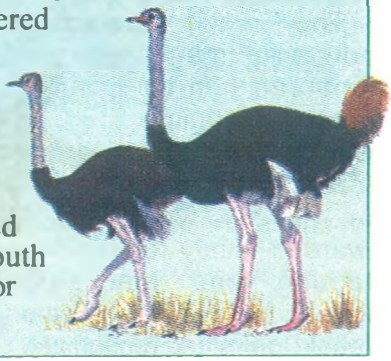
Star fish often drop some of their arms off to escape an enemy, but the arms grow again. If you cut a star-fish in half, a new one would grow from each half.

not have been made in so short a time. But Banting was unhappy at not including Charles Best in the honour. So he gave half his share of the prize to Best. He didn't take the other half for himself. Instead, he, gave it to the Banting Medical Research Foundation. He didn't even patent his discovery as his personal claim, which would have brought him great wealth. Instead he gave his rights to the University of Toronto, which passed the rights of manufacturing insulin to the Medical Research Council of Canada.

When the Second World War started in 1939 he was made the chairman of the National Research Council of Canada for Aviation Medical Research. While in this position he volunteered to serve as a liaison officer with the Canadian Air Force to carry secret, important messages to Britain. In connection with this his plane took off from Newfoundland on February 21, 1941. It developed engine trouble and crashed in a lonely area only 15 minutes after taking

Did You Know?

Ostrich feathers have been used by humans for at least 5000 years and the eggs have been put to many uses. During the eighteenth century, ostrich feathers came into fashion and ostriches were hunted almost to extinction. Then it was discovered they could be successfully farmed in 1833. The business thrived until after the First World War when demand dropped and the farms crashed. Today there are still at least 90,000 domesticated ostriches in Oudtshoorn, South Africa - now farmed mainly for meat and hide.



Did You Know?

If all the muscles in your body pulled together, they could lift a bus.

off. All three passengers on board, including Banting, were killed.

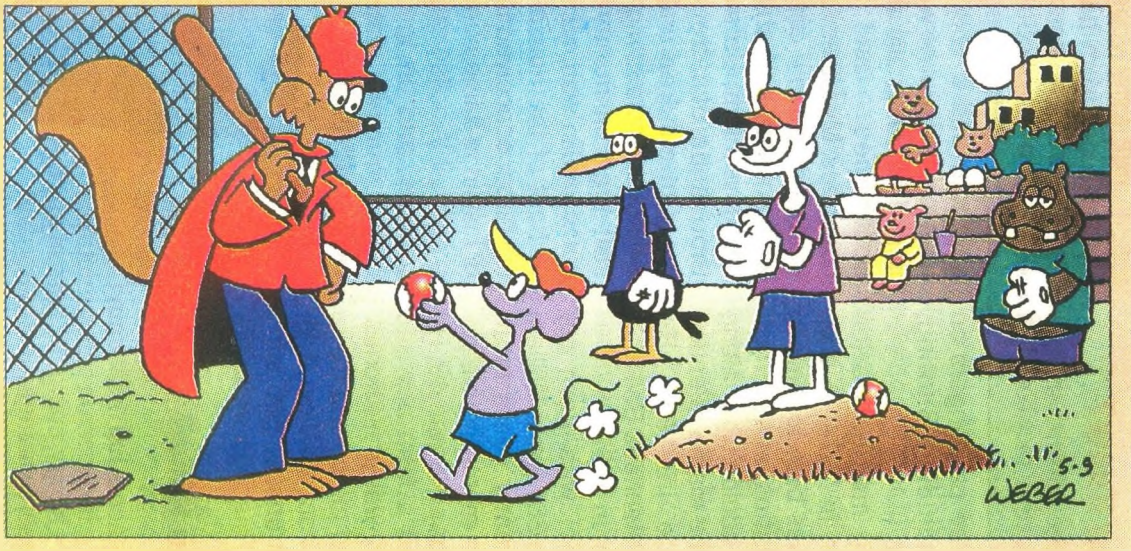
Banting married Marion Robertson in 1924. A son, William, was born to them in 1928. Banting and Marion however, couldn't get along well and the marriage ended in divorce in 1933. He remarried Henrietta Ball after four years, in 1937.

"When I was born my father was 38," wrote William Banting many years later. "He died a month before my 12th birthday. He was 49. He was raised a farm boy and the country was in his bones. He showed me how to make a whistle from a willow twig, and which unseen bird sang a song. This was valuable stuff for a young boy to get from his Dad. His biographers will tell you he could be headstrong and stubborn and a very tough man to cross. But he was also fiercely loyal to his friends, colleagues and war comrades. My father was also kind and gentle - especially with animals and children - who loved him. He received thousands of letters from grateful children which he would read late at night, with soft tears in his eyes. He knew insulin was not a cure. In front of the house where my father conceived the idea of insulin, a flame burns from a cairn. It is called the flame of hope, and on the day a cure is found for diabetes, it will be extinguished."

Did You Know?

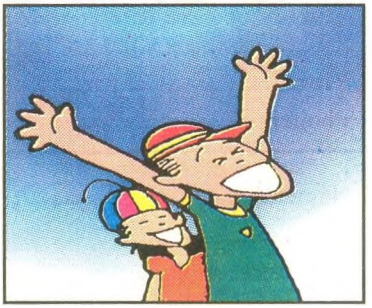
Orange juice is full of vitamin C.
A crabby, lazy person can sometimes become a happy, energetic person just by drinking some orange juice every day!

Try It...



While having fun between mystery cases, Max Mouse decided to try stumping his hero Slylock Fox. Max claims he can throw a ball and have it change direction in midair and actually return to him. Slylock knows how that is possible. Do you? *(See page 97)*

E A R N WHILE YOU L E A R N



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Answers

CROSSWORD

Across
1. Holmes 4. Oval 6. Pencil 7. Aral 8. Mar 9. Gala 11. Recoup 12. Nose 13. Shrimp

Down:
1. Heptagon 2. Lend 3. Solar 5. Lollipop 8. Mares 10. Holi

RIDDLES

Sure you can. Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow!

TRUE OR FALSE

1) False. Gorillas live only in Africa. 2) False. American alligator numbers have increased over the past 30 years. 3) True. 4) False. Foxes hunt alone. 5) True.

TRY IT...

Page 78
2), 4) and 7) are all dog breeds.
Page 89
Numbers 1 and 3.
Page 90
b)

QUIZ OF THE MONTH

1. Emily Dickinson
2. Bellona
3. Salarjung Museum, Hyderabad
4. M 30402457
5. Epic of Shivaji
6. Turin in Italy
7. MaunaKea, Hawaii
8. "May Your Peaceful Reign Last Long."
9. Alexander Pope
10. The New Hebrides
11. Allan Octavian Hume
12. 3761
13. The birth of Venus.

SLYLOCK FOX

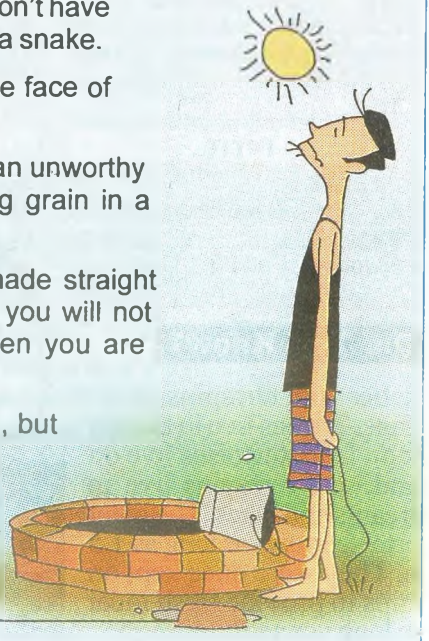
Solution: Max throws the ball straight up. The ball would change direction when it falls back towards Max.

Did You Know?

Turtles and tortoises are reptiles that live inside hard, armoured shells. Together with terrapins, they make up a group called the chelonians. Turtles live in the sea or on land, tortoises live on land, and terrapins live in streams and lakes. The giant tortoise grows as long as 1.5 m. They were once kept on ships to provide fresh meat on long voyages.

Proverbs

- **He who is being carried does not realize how far the town is.**
- You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar.
- It takes two to make a quarrel but only one to end it.
- A weapon which you don't have in your hand won't kill a snake.
- Ashes fly back into the face of him who throws them.
- Confiding a secret to an unworthy person is like carrying grain in a bag with a hole.
- If you refuse to be made straight when you are green, you will not be made straight when you are dry.
- It is not work that kills, but worry.
- **We never know the worth of water till the well is dry.**



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